

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF LAW

# **EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS**

A look into the personal stories of five alumni and their diverse paths to UK Law.

EXIDERION OF WINCHES

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# Message from the Dean



As I reflect on the market research study that we conducted this summer, a constant theme emerges from the opinions expressed by current students and alumni regarding the environment they experienced during law school—and that is "supportive." It is clear that UK Law provides an encouraging environment where individuals from many different backgrounds can thrive and succeed. While law school may be stressful and in some ways competitive, UK Law provides our students with an opportunity to gain a top

notch legal education while also making lifetime connections with classmates and professors. It is no surprise that our students come to UK Law with many different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives, and they leave with the tools needed to build a future in their areas of interest. This is made evident through some of the stories you will read in the magazine, including those of a vision-impaired, rising 3L student; a young alumna who, through her advocacy for civil rights, is making an impact for the American Muslim community; an alumnus who was the first African-American graduate of the law school and paved the way for other minority students; an alumna who attended law school while being a wife and mother of three during a time when female attorneys were not prevalent; and an Eastern KY alumnus who successfully practiced at a large firm in New York before returning to UK Law as a professor, to name a few.

The law school began a new initiative to encourage our students to become involved in pro bono opportunities to further positively impact our local communities. Students who complete 50 hours of approved pro bono work will receive a pro bono award and special recognition at law school commencement. We believe the benefits of the work donated by the students will not only impact their future careers by providing them with real life experience, but it will also impact them on a personal level with the satisfaction of giving back.

While we are celebrating the retirements of several beloved faculty, we are welcoming a new group of committed faculty who are making a national impact. You will notice in this issue we have incorporated a new feature, highlighting one of our newer faculty members to provide an opportunity for our alumni to get to know him or her. This issue features Cortney Lollar, who joined the law school faculty in 2013. I hope you will take the opportunity to read and learn more about the new UK Law faculty who are continuing the tradition, long-held by the law school, for top notch faculty who take a personal interest in the success of the students they teach.

We are excited to introduce the new accelerated JD/MBA dual degree and BLUE programs. While the law school has had a JD/MBA dual degree program for a while, we have now updated it to allow students to complete this dual degree in three calendar years instead of four or five. The new BLUE program, also known as the 3+3 program, is a joint effort between the law school and the UK College of Arts & Sciences. Certain students will have the opportunity to complete their undergraduate and JD degrees in six years instead of seven. Both of these programs will offer students an opportunity to save time and money as they launch their careers.

Every year when I write this letter for the *Law Notes* magazine and look back through the year, I am astounded at the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni. The positive impact that members of the UK Law family make in their local communities and the legal profession is overwhelming. It is hard to narrow down what we showcase in the magazine because of the number of reputable events, lectures, and efforts that we host each year. However, I hope that you will enjoy reading what we have highlighted. I wish you well and look forward to another productive year for UK Law.

Best,

ARS

David Brennen, Dean

# UK Law Students Save Taxpayers \$95,000, Devote 2,732 Hours to Clients



### By: Whitney Harder

The American Bar Association calls on each lawyer to render at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services per year. In the 2014-2015 academic year, UK Law students went well above and beyond that to serve Kentuckians.

Through UK Law Legal Clinic and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, UK law students provided legal and tax preparation services for free, saving clients from hefty fines and finding solutions for difficult situations.

In the Legal Clinic, 29 third-year law students handled 92 cases for a total of 2,732 hours devoted to classroom and client casework, or approximately 94 hours of free legal aid provided by each student.

"For almost 20 years, the College of Law Legal Clinic has successfully met its educational goals of academic excellence through the development of practice skills and promotion of ethical values and responsibilities," said Professor Allison Connelly, who has directed the clinic since its founding in 1997. "The Clinic has firmly integrated itself into the community, established a sterling reputation of legal excellence, and helped thousands of low income individuals."

"More importantly, by putting a human face on the legal problems and needs facing those without means, the clinic has promoted an understanding of the need for fairness and justice in our legal system, and has translated those needs into a valuable educational experience," she said.

In addition to working directly with clients and representing them in estates matters, divorces, housing, and tort and contract claims, UK Legal Clinic students also gained invaluable experience in mediation, interviewing, landlord-tenant laws, civil procedure, legal drafting, consumer protection law, and more.

"Our clients have limited income and are often faced with situations in which they feel helpless because of their limited resources," said Marc Manley, who graduated from UK Law in May but is still engaged in several Legal Clinic cases that will conclude over the summer. "Being able to close a difficult chapter in someone's life is indescribably more valuable than closing the chapter of a textbook."

Legal Clinic students also went beyond the classroom and courtroom and straight to the homes of their clients. They raised money and delivered Thanksgiving dinners to several clients and their families.

"The UK Legal Clinic is an important institution not only because it serves the less fortunate, but also because it provides meaningful assurance to the law student that their long hours in the library do in fact have the ability to make someone's life better," Manley said.

While the UK Legal Clinic provides an array of legal services to those in need, another UK College of Law clinic has been specializing for more than 20 years in one service: tax preparation, often a very complex and confusing process for taxpayers.

For the 2015 tax return season, 19 law and 12 accounting students volunteered in the UK Law VITA program to assist 475 taxpayers complete their returns. Logging a

total of more than 600 hours over the course of six and a half weeks, UK law students saved taxpayers about \$95,000 in return preparation fees.

"This year was particularly challenging with the large number of unusual situations presented by taxpayer clients, as well as the rollout of the Affordable Care Act requirements," said Douglas Michael, UK College of Law associate dean of academic affairs and director of the VITA program. "These volunteers helped clients with complicated situations navigate many new and sometimes confusing rules. It is hard to imagine being a taxpayer in that situation without the help these student volunteers provide for free."

On behalf of those taxpayers, students prepared returns claiming total refunds of \$536,844 for low-income taxpayers, as well as the large population of foreign students and scholars at UK.

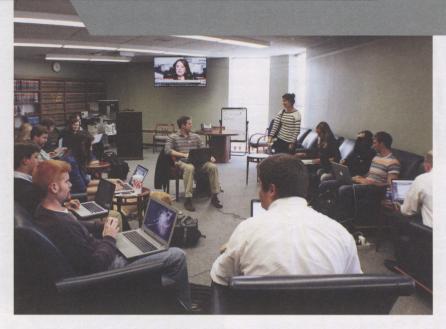
To qualify as tax return preparers, students completed at least 15 classroom or online training hours and passed three IRS tests on tax law and procedure. But, it is well worth the time and effort for students who are eager to use their legal skills to benefit community members.

"I like the idea of making taxes and tax preparation less stressful, and less expensive, for beleaguered taxpayers," said Cate Poole, who volunteered in the VITA program year after year until she graduated from the College of Law in 2011, and has returned as a site supervisor each year since 2013.

Noting that each taxpayer has a unique situation, Poole said, "I've seen a lot over the years...no, unfortunately I cannot verify your spouse's ID over FaceTime," she joked. "I love using that experience to help people."

The UK Law VITA program will open again to the community in February of 2016. For information about the program, visit www.law.uky.edu/tax. For more information about the UK Law Legal Clinic, call 859-257-4692.

# **Student Impact**



# The Election Law Society's Analysis Blog A Huge Hit

Members of the Election Law
Society and Professor Josh Douglas
spent approximately eight hours
on November 4, 2014 covering
potential legal issues arising during
the tabulation of the election
results. They posted stories in real
time regarding these issues on their
analysis blog. (UK Law's Election
Law Society blog can be found
at www.uky.edu/electionlaw.)

The blog, staffed by upwards of 30 Election Law Society members and Professor Douglas, received traffic from 45 of the 50 states and visitors from at least four foreign countries including Japan and Australia. In a five-day period, more than three thousand visitors landed on the blog.

On the same day as the blog launch, the New York Times



website published an op-ed piece by Professor Douglas: "The Vote You Save May Be Your Own."

3L student, Aubrey Vaughan, wrote an article for the blog entitled, "Will Rand Paul Have to Choose Between Running for the Senate and the Presidency?" Her article was linked in a Washington Examiner article on November 8, in which UK College of Law Professors Scott Bauries and Josh Douglas were also quoted.

# Kentucky Law Journal Symposium

The Kentucky Law Journal and UK
Law presented a Symposium on Data
Privacy entitled "Your Rights in a Digital
World," on Friday, October 10, 2014.

This symposium was dedicated to the question of how we govern data privacy when personal data is ubiquitous.

Guest speakers for this event included:

- Professor Leslie P. Francis, Distinguished
   Professor of Law and Philosophy, Alfred C.
   Emery Professor of Law, and Associate Dean
   for Faculty Research and Development in the
   College of Law at the University of Utah.
- Professor Raymond Ku, Director of the Center for Cyberspace Law & Policy and Professor of Law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law.
- Professor Dennis D. Hirsch, Geraldine
   W. Howell Professor of Law at
   Capital University Law School.
- Professor David Thaw, Assistant Professor of Law and Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh and an Affiliated Fellow of the Information Society Project at Yale Law School.
- Professor Patricia Sánchez Abril, Associate Professor of Business Law at the University of Miami School of Business Administration.
- Professor Jacqueline Lipton, Baker
  Botts Professor of Law and Co-Director
  for the Institute for Intellectual
  Property and Information Law at the
  University of Houston Law Center.
- Lawrence Siry, Collaberatuer Scientifique at the University of Luxembourg.
- The Honorable Jennifer B. Coffman, retired U.S. District Judge, was the moderator for the symposium.

# STUDENTS SERVE EASTERN KENTUCKY WITH PRO BONO SERVICES

### By: Whitney Harder

Lounging on beautiful beaches, cruising the Caribbean, and even international volunteer trips have become today's popular Spring Break pastimes for college students. A less common excursion is spending the week providing legal aid in Eastern Kentucky. But this year, two UK Law students opted for the latter, providing a much needed service many may not think of when "alternative spring breaks" come to mind.

Using what they have learned from UK law courses and the desire to make a difference in their careers, first-year law students John Shearer, of Raceland, Kentucky, and Nealy Williams, of Lexington, traveled to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in Prestonsburg, Kentucky—the same city Robert F. Kennedy visited in 1968 for his "war on poverty" tour—and spent the week of Spring Break providing pro bono legal services to citizens there.

Pro bono work, an important staple of the legal profession, provides those who would otherwise not be able to afford any sort of legal advice or representation with proper advice and representation.

According to the Legal Aid Network of Kentucky, the "justice gap" in Kentucky is so severe that only 20 percent of low income Kentuckians' legal needs are addressed.

Hailing from Raceland, also in Eastern Kentucky, Shearer personally understood the impact of his work in the area.

"It is especially important in areas like Eastern Kentucky where a large portion of the population is living below the poverty line. These individuals do not always have the funds to promote and sustain their constitutionally granted rights, and attorneys and other various organizations provide a means of doing so via their pro bono work," Shearer said.

On their trip, Shearer and Williams volunteered under the direction of Eastern Kentucky lawyer Ned Pillersdorf, a partner of the law firm Pillersdorf, DeRossett & Lane, who often assists low income individuals. The pair drafted a response to a motion, attended court hearings, visited a client in jail, sat in on some of the firm's initial consultations with prospective clients, and conducted confidential due diligence.

"Nealy and John were excellent ambassadors for the law school," Pillersdorf said. "They were exposed to a wide array of legal and cultural experiences during their visit to the mountains. I sincerely hope talented law students like Nealy and John will consider bringing their talents here one day."

Shearer and Williams also worked with AppalReD, an organization that provides free legal representation and advice to impoverished individuals and families in eastern and south central Kentucky. In one particular case, the students had the opportunity to assist various individuals seeking a remedy for property damage and participated directly with the community at a town hall meeting to discuss the damage.

"The College of Law has been working hard to provide our students with more pro bono opportunities," said Daniel P. Murphy, assistant dean of administration and community engagement at the college and organizer of the students' trip. "We are proud of students like Mr. Shearer and Ms. Williams who sacrifice their time to help citizens in need."

The trip not only benefited residents of Eastern Kentucky with crucial legal services, but it also provided both UK students with hands-on professional experience and the opportunity to meet many prominent members of the legal community in the area, including Pillersdorf's wife, current Court of Appeals Judge Janet Stumbo.



Even as first-year law students, they were able to apply many classroom concepts to real clients and cases. Shearer said legal research and legal writing skills were probably used the most, but they were constantly cross-examined by Pillersdorf and quizzed on various aspects of what they have learned in the classroom so far.

"The trip was a great way to see the content I learned in my core 1L (first year of law school) courses in practice," Williams said. "It also helped to supplement the lessons I've learned by giving me an actual person to help, and it was a great way for me to focus in on what areas of my previous studies I actually enjoy doing in the real world."

At the core of the experience though was the mission of service. Williams and Shearer even volunteered some of their time at the Floyd County Animal Shelter.

"Being a lawyer means being committed to your community. Being a UK Law student means having the opportunity to fulfill that commitment by providing pro bono services to citizens of the Commonwealth," said UK Law Dean David A. Brennen.

For more information about the pro bono services and community service activities of UK Law students, visit law.uky.edu/academics/probono-and-community-engagement.

# KJEANRL Symposium

Framing a discussion around the laws that uniquely impact Kentucky—equine, agriculture, and natural resources regulations—UK Law hosted "Improving or Impeding? The Local & National Effects of State & Federal Regulation," sponsored by the Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Law.

Legal scholars, practitioners, and regulators from across the nation shared their thoughts on the benefits and limitations of equine, agriculture, and natural resources regulations. Organizers of the event said regulations, at all levels, often have two competing goals that policymakers must balance: economic growth with human and environmental protection.

Thomas Rutledge, adjunct professor at UK Law and member of Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC, moderated the equine law discussion. The discussion panel also included Jill Stowe, director of the UK College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment Equine Programs and associate professor in the UK Department of Agricultural Economics; Robert Heleringer, who focuses on equine regulatory law; Laura D'Angelo, UK Law adjunct professor, alumna, and partner at Dinsmore & Shohl in Lexington; and Robert Beck, a transactional lawyer with Stites & Harbison in Lexington.

Michael Healy, Senator Wendell H. Ford Professor of Law at UK, moderated the agriculture and natural resources law discussion. The discussion panel also included Herb Miller, UK Law alumnus and current president of Columbia Gas of Kentucky; Tom FitzGerald, UK Law alumnus and director of Kentucky Resources Council; Jim Huffman, dean emeritus at the Lewis and Clark Law School; Baylen Linnekin, founder and executive director of Keep Food Legal Foundation; and Allen Olson, an agricultural lawyer and adjunct professor at the University of Arkansas School of Law.

# 2014-2015 JUDICIAL CONVERSATION SERIES

UK Law hosted Chief Judge Tracey Wise from the Eastern District of Kentucky United States Bankruptcy Court on October 22nd as part of the College of Law's 2014–2015 Judicial Conversation Series. Judge Wise met with members of the Women's Law Caucus for breakfast and discussed challenges she faces in her judiciary role as a female in a predominantly male position. She encouraged the Women's Law Caucus members to continue pursuing their dreams, whether it's practicing law or becoming a judge, and assured them it is possible to balance family and career.

Following her breakfast, Judge Wise joined retired Chief Judge Jennifer B. Coffman in the Courtroom for an open forum. Judge Wise shared how she went from graduating

law school into practice, then deciding to open her own practice in Lexington with another female, focusing primarily on bankruptcy.

She explained her appointment as Chief Judge in the Eastern District of Kentucky's Bankruptcy Court. She gave students a day-in-the-life perspective and shared how technology continues to make her work more efficient. The forum ended with Judge Wise fielding questions from students.

Judge Wise's visit is part of UK Law's Judicial Conversation Series. The purpose of this series is to provide thoughtful and engaging interactions between distinguished members of the judiciary and law students. Previous speakers have included Kentucky Supreme Court Justices Minton (Chief),



Abramson, Cunningham, Noble, Scott, and Venters, and U.S. Tax Court Judge Joseph Goeke. Judge Coffman serves as facilitator for the Series.

# Student Impact

# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The UK Law Federalist Society was nominated for two national awards including the James Madison Award for Chapter of the Year and the Samuel Adams Award for Membership Growth. The students traveled to Chicago for the awards banquet and had the opportunity to meet Richard Epstein, Professor of Law at New York University, who proudly displayed his UK Law Federalist Society koozie.



Rhett Quarles (2015), with a second round knock-out, represented UK Law in the UK Alpha Delta Pi and Sigma Chi's 7<sup>th</sup> annual fight night, "The Main Event." This amateur boxing tournament benefitted the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass and DanceBlue.





Members of the UK Law Moot Court team celebrated their accomplishments at the annual Litigation Banquet.





Each fall, in conjunction with the UK vs. U of L football game, UK Law students take on the Brandies Law School students in a game of flag football.

The Wellness Club provided materials for students to make stress relief balls using play dough and balloons to help promote mental health.



The Women's Law Caucus held their Annual Spring Banquet at the Hilary J. Boone Center.



The Black Law Students Association hosts a "Law Student for the Day" event each year encouraging high school students interested in law school to attend this one day event. This allows the students an opportunity to visit a law school lecture and ask questions to current law students and faculty.



Each semester, leading up to finals, the Christian Legal Society sponsors "Dog Day of Finals." A local humane society brings in puppies for the students to play with and relieve stress.



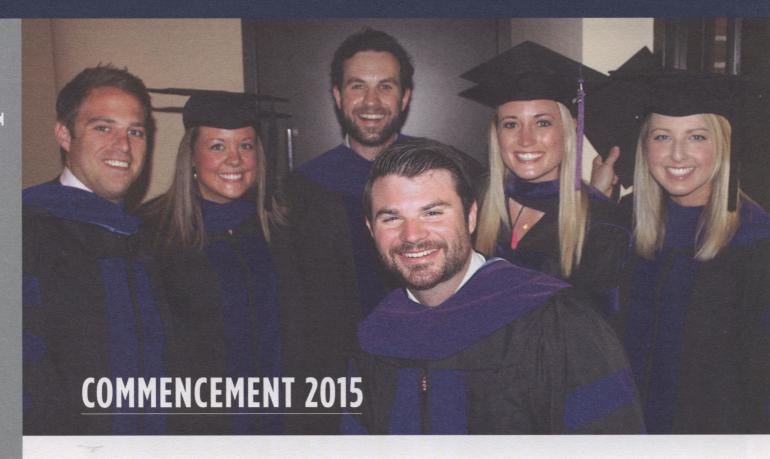
Rising 2L and 3L students volunteer as part of the 2014 Orientation Committee and help welcome incoming students to UK Law.



Students, faculty, and staff dressed up as Professor Lawson in his signature blue collared shirt and red tie.



The Student Bar Association hosts an annual golf tournament to raise money for First Tee, a youth development organization.



n Friday, May 8, 2015, UK
Law held its Commencement
Ceremony for the Class of 2015.
Family and friends gathered in the
Singletary Center for the Arts to honor
and celebrate the graduating students.

Dean David A. Brennen congratulated the class and highlighted their many accomplishments during their time at law school. "The College of Law Class of 2015 is a collection of students who have formed a community that extended beyond the classroom. In the three years this class has been a part of the College of Law, these students have achieved extraordinary accomplishments."

The accomplishments included volunteering in the VITA clinic to assist with the preparation of hundreds of tax returns for low income taxpayers, competing in numerous co-curricular legal and practical skills activities, providing pro bono legal services, hosting legal symposia, engaging the community by providing on-line commentary on legal issues surrounding the 2014 elections, serving as mentors for local high school students, and hosting numerous quest speakers. This class demonstrated its compassion and commitment to each other by coming together to help fellow classmates through difficult times of need.

Professor Collin Schueler, selected by the graduating students, delivered remarks on behalf of the College of Law faculty. The Class of 2015's dedication to public service was a common theme among the given remarks as Professor Schueler also boasted of students' service to the community and told them this was the legacy they would leave behind. A legacy he said was fitting due to the

retirement of Professor Robert Lawson, "a man who has devoted his entire life to public service." Professor Schueler paid tribute to Professor Lawson:

A man who has been a law professor at UK for 50 years... half a century...

A man who twice served as Dean.

A man who wrote Kentucky's Penal Code and our Rules of Evidence.

A man who has fought his entire life to reform our state's prisons and jails.

A man who has given so much... to you... and to me... and to generations of students, lawyers, judges, public officials, and members of our community.

And so, today, on this graduation day, when we celebrate your extraordinary commitment to public service, we also honor and thank the most incredible public servant in our law school's history...

Professor... Robert... Lawson.



# Student Impact



Professor Lawson received a standing ovation from the entire assembly in honor of his retirement and service to the College of Law and Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Dean Brennen continued to praise the class for its "pay it forward" gift made to the law school and future law students. "The Class of 2015 demonstrated an outward-focus that will continue to serve them as they begin their careers in law," Dean Brennen said. "As a further demonstration of a special type of commitment to the College of Law, this year's graduating class came together to 'give back.' As a result of financial donations by the class, a new piece of art will hang in the halls of the UK College of Law."



Michael Hill, as the highest-ranked student of the class, gave the greetings for the graduates. He humored his classmates and attendees with analogies comparing law school to prison. The motivation for this analogy came because he described seeing scribbled next to a hole in a law school basement wall, "Andy Dufresne was here," in reference to

the main character in *The Shawshank Redemption*. However, he concluded his speech by acknowledging the strong impact his law school education made on the way he and his classmates view the world. "Law school has fundamentally changed the way you think about daily life and approach the world." He noted that he and his classmates are now better equipped to handle issues that may arise throughout their life experiences.



Bill Johnson,
President of the
Kentucky Bar
Association, spoke
on behalf of the
practicing bar.
He encouraged
the graduates

to remember who they are serving throughout their practice. "I suggest you always remember that you are serving a person who needs your help. We, as part of the profession, have a duty to serve the public. We are not always paid in money for our services but we are always rewarded when we help our fellow man and woman."

The faculty selected Kevin Havelda as this year's Faculty Cup Recipient, and Dean Brennen presented him with an



engraved silver julep cup during the presentation of awards. The Faculty Cup recognizes a graduating student whose endeavors, both in and out of the classroom, made the law school



a more interesting place in which to teach and a more pleasant place for faculty and students alike. Dean Brennen then presented

members of the graduating class with certificates signifying attainment of the degree of Juris Doctor.

Congratulations Class of 2015! We look forward to the remarkable achievements of this class in years to come.

Noelle True, the College of Law Alumni Association incoming President, welcomed the new graduates as distinguished alumni with an adaptation of Robert Fulghum's All I Ever Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten to the legal profession:



- 1 Be a nice person. Play fair, don't hit people, and don't take things that aren't yours.
- 2 Own your mistakes. Clean up your own mess and say you're sorry when you hurt someone.
- **3** Give back, and stay connected. Share everything, and put things back where you found them.



# **FUTURE ALUM**

### Chris Stewart, Class of 2016

### Tell us about your background.

I am a Kentucky native, born and raised in Owensboro. Music defined my childhood. I began playing piano at age four, but I picked up

the violin when I was ten, and it soon became my primary focus. During my time at Owensboro High School, I was an All-State first violinist every year. I won local and national competitions and was a featured soloist with the Owensboro Symphony and the Evansville Philharmonic, performing concertos by Bach, Vivaldi, and Lalo with those groups.

I received my B.F.A. in violin performance from the California Institute for the Arts. There, I performed in faculty ensembles, touring California with a group that also featured the music school's associate dean.

After finishing college, I worked as a professional violinist in Los Angeles. My specialty became my versatility, and I recorded and performed classical music, bluegrass, Eastern European music, reggae, and even used an electric violin and pedal board to create music for an award-winning zombie movie.

In 2012, my then-girlfriend and I decided to get married. We are both Kentucky natives and agreed it was time to come home. I always had a strong interest in the law and a desire to be a lawyer, so I took the LSAT and happily accepted my offer to attend UK Law.

When did you first become interested in law school?

The story of why I became interested in the law is one I hear commonly around UK, and it makes me smile every time. When I read *To Kill a Mockingbird* in fifth grade, I got my first education in real-world justice. A lot of people remember Atticus Finch quotes, with good reason, but I was always struck by Ms. Rachel when she said, "if a man like Atticus Finch wants to butt his head against a stone wall it's his head." The notion of advocating for a client, not because

it is the popular choice, but because it is your duty as an advocate, struck me as a remarkably noble endeavor. From that point forward, my interest in the law was cemented.

### What made you decide to come to UK Law?

I came to UK Law for a couple of reasons, but it all goes back to the school's commitment to making each student feel like he or she is receiving a personalized experience. I am totally blind, and rather than sending me a printed acceptance letter, Franklin Runge, who was interim head of admissions at the time, actually called me and asked whether I would prefer an email of the letter. He sent the printed one anyway so I could have the physical copy, but I really appreciated being able to open the email and read my acceptance without scanning the document into my computer. Of all the schools I applied to, Prof. Runge was the only admissions person who took that extra step.

Additionally, when my wife and I came to UK Law's event for accepted students, Dean Brennen introduced himself. He then immediately asked whether he could meet my guide dog. I said yes, expecting him to pat Baron on the head and move on, but Dean Brennen actually dropped to his knees and gave Baron a full on hug. That action had a real impact on me. The welcoming feeling I got from Dean Brennen's thoughtful gesture coupled with Professor Runge's wonderful recruiting job made the decision to come to UK easy.

### What are some of your accomplishments that you are most proud of?

There are a few things that stand out as special accomplishments. When I performed Lalo's *Symphonie Espagnole*, a virtuoso violin concerto, with the Evansville philharmonic at age seventeen, I felt proud of my musical achievement. When I became the first blind member of the Kentucky Law Journal in its 104-year history, then had my student note selected for publication, I felt proud of my scholastic achievement. But, in all honesty, it all pales in comparison to April 19, 2013, when I married my wife Emily, whom I met at the Governor's School for the Arts in high school. She is my better half, and sharing a life with her is, and always will be, my greatest accomplishment.

# Student Impact



### Is there a particular professor or class that has really left an impression on you?

Because I genuinely enjoy studying the law, and UK has an awesome faculty, nearly all of my classes have stood out in one way or another. I could spend pages writing about my professors. But, one of my favorite moments in law school was when Professor Fortune gave us his ten pieces of advice for when we are practicing. It was the last time he would teach professional responsibility, and I'm not ashamed to say that there were tears in the classroom, and a couple of them were mine. Professor Fortune always began class by saying "Okay good people!" He explained to us that those weren't just words, but he genuinely believed that the vast majority of us were honest, ethical, and good people. The legal system is adversarial, and I imagine that may sometimes cloud my view of people in the future, but having had Professor Fortune, I will always remember to search for the good in everyone, no matter which side of the "v." they are on.

### What are some of your career goals?

I hope to clerk for a judge for a year or two when I graduate. Following that, my mind is open as to what type of law I will practice. I enjoy employment law, and that's looking more and more like a possibility. However, I also love our democratic system of governance. Election law and political science fascinate me. Whether I have a future in this area remains to be seen, but I'm definitely leaving the door open.

### Years from now, when you look back at your time at UK Law what will you remember most about this experience?

I will most remember my classmates. I will remember their thought-fulness, their intelligence, and their creativity. I will remember how every single one of them faced hardships in law school, but they all maintained positive outlooks and kept going. I will remember studying together and hanging out afterward to blow off steam. I genuinely respect and admire my fellow students much more than I have words to express. It will be my honor to practice law alongside these good people for the rest of our careers, and I will always remember that first contracts class on our first day in the fall of 2013.

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Students Enrolled 54

Number of Undergraduate Schools

22

Average Age 36

Number of Undergraduate Majors

### Most Popular

Political Science, English, History, Psychology, Business Managemen

### **Most Unusual**

Art History, Linguistics, Music, Religious Studies

### **Prior Careers Include:**

- Academic Adviso
- Civil Engineer
- Journalist
- Minor League Relief Pitcher
- Park Ranger
- Probation/Parole Officer
- State Trooper
- Thoroughbred Trainer
- TV/Screenplay Writer

Based on figures at the time of matriculation.

# THE LAWSON LEGACY

### 50 Years of Service to the College of Law and Commonwealth

By: Whitney Harder

In his khaki slacks, blue shirt and red tie, Professor Robert (Bob) G. Lawson had just finished lecturing students in his UK Law course, just like every other class. But this was their last day of the semester, and their last class with Lawson.

Professor Lawson concluded the lecture, walked out of the room and up to his second floor office, never spotting what the students had done. Moments later, he heard a knock at his door. In came one student.

"Well, you didn't notice did you?" the student said, gesturing to his clothes. The student, along with a group lined outside Lawson's door, and every other student in the 50-person class, was dressed in khakis, a blue shirt and a red tie.

"I mean you all look nice," Lawson said. "You can't be helped," one student in the hallway joked.

And so began the tradition of celebrating the scholar, the lawyer and the advocate by emulating him in the best way students knew how—wearing the classic Professor Lawson ensemble.

The next year, students in his class showed up as Lawson look-a-likes once again, only this time they had t-shirts printed with red ties. It is something that comes with the territory of teaching at the college for decades, which, for Lawson, often included several games of basketball with students.

After educating around 6,000 UK Law students over 50 years, Professor Lawson retired this summer. He first began his career at UK Law as a student, earning his J.D. degree in 1963.

"I liked the place from day one," Lawson said. "The faculty, the students that were here, they treated me like I was their best friend."

After two years in practice, he returned to UK Law in 1965 to teach one course. In 1966, he began working full-time as a law professor.

"I've never had one bad experience with a student," Lawson said. "It's almost like having 6,000 children of my own."

He taught leaders of the Commonwealth—Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Governor Steve Beshear, Congressman Ed Whitfield, Congressman Andy Barr and former U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler. And he worked with leaders of the university, including Presidents Singletary, Roselle, Wethington and Todd.

He was acting dean of the law school during the Vietnam War, when he says the student population was the biggest it has ever been, perhaps due to soldiers returning from war with education grant money. But there were not nearly as many faculty members as the law school boasts today.

"It was a difficult time in education," he said, noting the war and the Kent State shootings. At UK, student demonstrations took place and an ROTC annex was burned down during that time, allegedly due to arson. For weeks following the incident, Lawson conducted the hearings on each student code violation.

Professor Lawson was also called upon in matters beyond the university, and is perhaps best known for his impact in reforming Kentucky law. He is the principal drafter of the Kentucky Penal Code, which marked the first time Kentucky criminal law had been revised. Following the Kentucky Penal Code, while he was teaching evidence law, the Supreme Court of Kentucky sought him out to write the Kentucky Rules of Evidence, which are now used by all of the Commonwealth's judges and most of the trial lawyers. It has played a role in the decision of more than 300 cases authored by the Kentucky Court of Appeals.

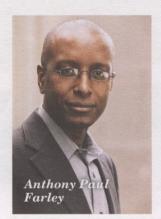
"It was obvious to me from the beginning that that was about as important a matter as I could work on," Lawson said. "You're talking about the laws that are going to govern the loss of freedom for the citizens of Kentucky, and at the same time try to protect the citizens of Kentucky."

In recent years, he has focused on reforming Kentucky's prison and jails, which he will continue to do even after his retirement. A new book may also be on his post-retirement to-do list. But even so, Lawson plans to change his habits by seeing less of his office (which he will still occupy) and more of his grandchildren.

"I've had a real good experience at the university," he said simply. And because of him, thousands of law students have also had a "real good experience at the university."



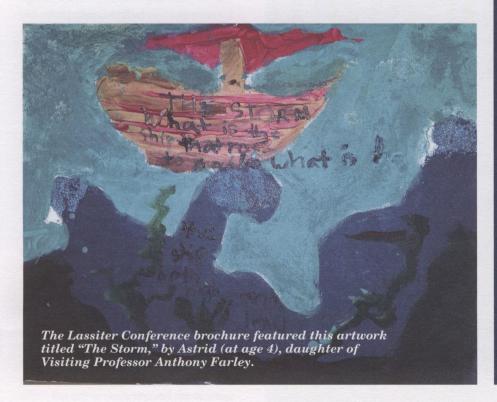
# JAMES & MARY LASSITER DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR CONFERENCE



On November 21, 2014, UK Law hosted the James and Mary Lassiter Distinguished Visiting Professor Conference. Anthony Paul Farley, the 2014 Lassiter Distinguished Visiting Professor, led a group of prominent speakers through the day's events.

The Lassiter Distinguished Visiting Professor conference focused on the four freedoms and race. Black childhood is in danger. What is freedom of speech without the right to an education? What is freedom of worship amidst nihilistic

erasures of black childhood? What is freedom from want when most of black childhood is lived below the poverty line? What is freedom from fear when black childhood is itself feared? Democracy requires these questions to be answered, and childhood's relationship to time means that there is such a thing as too late. Academics and activists from all over the nation gathered together to address these urgent questions of race, childhood, and democracy.



The panel on Black Childhood and Philosophy included the following speakers:

- Kidulthood: Sarah Jane Forman, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
- Black Children & American Nihilism: Odeana Neal, University of Baltimore School of Law
- Structural Harm in the Age of Mass Incarceration: Spearlt, Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law
- Is There a Future for Black Boys In America? A Candid Discussion of the Education, Criminalization, & Victimization of Our Black Boys: Phyllis Taite, Florida A&M University School of Law
- Freedom: The Yet to be Realized Dream of Rural Girls in East Africa: Tsedey Tedla, LL.M.
- The Dangers of Neutrality: Structural Inequality,
   Schools, and Post-Racial
   Determinism: Cedric Powell,
   University of Louisville, Louis
   D. Brandeis School of Law
- Closing Remarks: Anthony Paul Farley, Lassiter Distinguished Visiting Professor, University of Kentucky College of Law
- Moderator: Jennifer Bird-Pollan, University of Kentucky College of Law

## **FACULTY PROFILE**

# Cortney Lollar

Number of years you have taught at UK Law: Two years

Classes you teach or areas of focus: Criminal Law, Evidence, Criminal Trial Process, with a focus on remedies, gender, and sexuality

Alma mater (law school): New York University School of Law

A fun fact not many people know about you: Until recently, I sang professionally.

Path to UK Law: I was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. I transferred twice as an undergraduate before landing at Brown University. I graduated from Brown with a degree in English and American Literature. I took two years off between college and law school. During that time I worked as a copy editor of a magazine, a law librarian at a big law firm in Atlanta, and a dramaturg at a local theater. After I graduated from NYU School of Law, I worked as a public defender in Washington, D.C. for 6 years, and then moved back to Atlanta, where I was a federal public defender for several years before I decided to teach. My first job in the legal academy was at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. I taught the Criminal Justice Clinic there, which operated out of the public defender's office in St. Louis County, the same county in which Ferguson, Missouri is located. I was thrilled to get the job at the University of Kentucky, as my father and my grandparents all were born in western Kentucky, and I still have lots of extended family all over the state.

What professional accomplishment are you most proud of? When I was in practice, on several occasions I enjoyed the experience of walking a client out of jail or out of the courthouse after securing an acquittal at trial, winning a motion to suppress illegally seized evidence, or simply securing pre-trial release for an employed client with children waiting at home. For me, those were especially powerful moments. But I am also grateful for and proud of each of the many opportunities I had to represent someone before a court, whether they had a winning case or not. As many before me have noted, each of us is better than the worst thing we have ever done. And we each would like to know that someone will be by our side, providing us counsel, if and when we make a serious mistake. I view it as a tremendous privilege and gift to have had the opportunity to stand by the side of many people who were facing the most difficult moments in their lives, and to let them know they had an advocate in their corner as they faced the tremendous power of the government and the criminal justice system.

As a professor, my proudest professional accomplishment to date occurred this spring, when I testified before the Department of Defense's Judicial Proceedings Panel. The Department of Defense established the Judicial Proceedings Panel to conduct an independent review and assessment of judicial proceedings taking place under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and involving adult sexual assault and related offenses. I was one of a panel of legal scholars with expertise in restitution and sexual assault asked to discuss compensation for victims of sexual assault in the context of the military justice system. I really valued the opportunity to be able to present on a topic I know and care about to an audience that



has the ability to make changes with substantial on-the-ground impact.

When did you know you wanted to teach law? What intrigued you about the profession? I've always wanted to teach but I always figured I'd go back and teach high school English. I didn't seriously think about teaching law until I had been practicing for long enough to feel comfortable that I could teach it to someone else. At some point, I realized how much fun it would be to teach criminal law and procedure-related subjects that I really care about to students who are just beginning to learn the law. I was a bit daunted by the idea of being a law professor but I have had amazing mentorship, and I truly love what I do.

What class do you enjoy teaching the most? I enjoy each of my classes for different reasons. I love teaching criminal law because I love getting to teach and get to know the 1Ls who have just arrived to begin law school. I am grateful for the opportunity to help them get acclimated to the law school and a new way of thinking. I enjoy teaching seminars because, due to their small size, the students and I get to know each other very well. I like challenging upper-level seminar students to look at the law

through a focused but in-depth lens. I enjoy teaching Criminal Trial Process and Evidence because these two classes cover the law that I used most during my years in practice. These are the classes that teach material I know many of my students will use regularly. Evidence is an especially fun class to teach, as it is fairly intuitive as you get familiar with it, and it's great to watch students have that moment where they begin to understand how the evidence rules fit together and function in practice.

What advice would you give to current students? Remember that you can do anything you set your mind to. Make sure to not only think about whether you can get a job, but what job will make you happy or content when you get up each day.

What do you enjoy most about teaching? My students. I love watching them engage and grapple with new subjects, learn to apply them, and those "aha!" moments are particularly great. I recognize that many of my students will become future leaders in their respective fields. Many of them will have the opportunities to represent people in their most vulnerable moments, whether in the criminal or civil context. Others will take non-legal leadership roles. I look forward to watching the paths they take, watching them become the person who stands by someone's side—either in court or out, and watching them take ideas they began to consider here at the University of Kentucky College of Law and implement them in a way that has the potential to affect the community around them.

### **WELCOME NEW FACULTY**



Albertina Antognini is appointed as an Assistant Professor of Law. Her primary teaching interests include Family Law, Trusts and Estates, Property, and Immigration Law. She was a Visiting Assistant Professor during the 2014–15 academic year.

Prior to joining UK College of Law, Antognini was a Thomas C. Grey Fellow at Stanford Law School. She received her J.D., cum

laude, from Harvard Law School. During law school, she worked at Asociación por los Derechos Civiles in Buenos Aires, and Debevoise & Plimpton LLP in New York. After graduation, Antognini received a Frederick Sheldon Fellowship to research immigration law in Paris, where she was in residence at the École Normale Supérieure.

She has also worked with the Immigrants' Rights Project of the ACLU in New York as a volunteer attorney. In 2010, Antognini clerked for the Honorable Rosemary S. Pooler of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She received her B.A., with distinction, in Comparative Literature from Stanford University.



Zachary Bray will be a Visiting
Assistant Professor during the Fall
2015 semester teaching Administrative
Law and Real Estate Transactions.
A Lexington native and a graduate
of Yale Law School, Bray has been
an Assistant Professor of Law since
2010 at the University of Houston Law
Center, where he has been recognized

with a university-wide Provost's Teaching Excellence Award.

Bray's published research on private land trusts, low-income housing, the Endangered Species Act, groundwater conflicts, and religious land use has been published or is forthcoming in the Brigham Young University Law Review, the Maryland Law Review, the Utah Law Review, and the Harvard Environmental Law Review.

Prior to entering academia, Bray worked as a law clerk for the Honorable Jennifer B. Coffman of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky, the Honorable Carolyn Dineen King of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and as an attorney at Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP in Los Angeles, California.

# **FACULTY NOTES**



ALBERTINA
ANTOGNINI's article
Family Unity Revisited:
Divorce, Separation, and
Death in Immigration
Law, which was originally

published in the South Carolina Law Review in 2014, will be reprinted in the Minnesota Family Law Journal.



RICHARD AUSNESS

published his article, Sherlock Holmes and the Problem of the Dead Hand: The Modification and Termination of

"Irrevocable" Trusts, in the Quinnipiac Probate Law Journal. He is also serving in the role of Associate Dean for Faculty Research.



**SCOTT BAURIES** 

published two books including, Civil Procedure: A Context and Practice Casebook (with Gerald Hess and

Teresa Beiner) and Jumpstart: Civil Procedure (forthcoming 2015).



JENNIFER BIRD-POLLAN led workshops on U.S. legal education in the U.S. Tax System at the John Paul

II Catholic University

School of Law in Lubin, Poland and spoke on the subject of income inequality in the United States at the American Studies seminar sponsored by the Austrian-American Fulbright Commission in Strobl, Austria. Bird-Pollan was also invited to participate in a symposium at the University College of London on Taxation and Philosophy in May.



DAVID A. BRENNEN

was named to the Lawyers of Color's Fourth Annual Power List, a comprehensive catalog of the nation's most

influential minority attorneys and non-minority diversity advocates.



TINA BROOKS

published Sources of American Law: An Introduction to Legal Research (with Beau Steenken).



BIFF CAMPBELL was cited substantially in a final rule published by the SEC, Amendments

the SEC, Amendments for Small and Additional Issues Exemptions Under

the Securities Act (Regulation A), 80 FR 21805, 4/20/15. The citations were taken from his letter to the SEC, Proposed Regulation A Amendments Implementing the Jobs Act: Please, SEC, Revise Your Proposed Amendments in Order to Promote Small Business Capital Formation.



### MARIANA JACKSON

CLAY coached the Black Law Students Association team at the national Nelson Mandela International Negoti-

ations Competition. She also coordinated speech and theatre training from Stage Right Acting Co. for students in her classes.



### **ALLISON CONNELLY**

presented Accommodating Transgender Students in Public Schools and co-presented Ferguson, Race

and the Law with Professors Cortney Lollar and Melynda Price. She also received the KBA's 2015 Donated Legal Services Award.



MARY J. DAVIS traveled to London, England during the Spring 2015 semester to represent UK

Law in the London Law

Consortium. She also published the fourth edition of Owen & Davis on Products Liability (with

David Owen).



### JAMES M. DONOVAN

as lead author, co-wrote The Open Access Adventure for American Law Reviews with Carol Watson and Caroline

Osborn. This article won the ALL-SIS Outstanding Article Award given by the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries.



### JOSHUA A. DOUGLAS

published numerous articles, including (Mis) Trusting States to Run Elections in the Washington University

Law Review. His article State Judges and the Right to Vote will appear in an upcoming 2016 issue of the Ohio State Law Review.



### WILLIAM H. FORTUNE

was featured in a Volunteer Spotlight article by the Kentucky Refugee Ministries. He also received the 2015

Outstanding Service to Young Lawyers Award by the Young Lawyers Division of the KBA.



CHRISTOPHER W. FROST was recently inducted into the American College of

Bankruptcy at a ceremony in Washington,

D.C. in recognition of his contribution to the insolvency field and service to the profession and his community. He also published an article Bankruptcy Appeals: Flexible Finality, Interlocutory Appeals, and Circuit Splits, in the Bankruptcy Law Letter.



BRIAN L. FRYE was selected as one of the artists included in the Whitney Museum's inaugural show, "America is Hard to See,"

for the opening of its new building. His book chapter, A Revolution in Favor of Television: WCVB-TV and Robert Gardner's Screening Room will appear in a forthcoming book on Robert Gardner to be published by SUNY Press. He published several articles including IP as Metaphor, Copyright & Charity, Three Great Phonographers: Warhol, Nixon & Kaufman.



ALVIN GOLDMAN's co-authored revision and update of Labor and Employment Law in the United States (2014) was published by Wolters

Kluwer Publishing. Goldman also co-authored a chapter, Settlement of Disputes Over Interests and Rights, in the treatise Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations in Industrialized Market Economies (R. Blanpain, ed., Wolters Kluwer, 2014).



LOUISE E. GRAHAM completed the 2014 update to *Kentucky Domestic Relations*. This is the first edition completed without the

help of Judge James E. Keller, who passed away June 2014.



JANE BLOOM GRISÉ
presented on critical
reading at several
conferences, including
the Annual Conference
Association of Academic

Support Educators in Chicago, Fourth Colonial Frontier Legal Writing Conference in Pittsburgh and the Association of Legal Writing Directors in Memphis.



ROBERTA M. HARDING, along with Professor Emerita, Carolyn Bratt, were invited by the ACLU of Kentucky to be profiled for the "Faces of

Liberty Project." This Project, which was launched to mark the 60th anniversary of the organization's founding, highlights the stories of people who have been an integral part of the organization's rich history.



KRISTIN J.
HAZELWOOD was
appointed to the
Teaching Workshop and
Conference Site
Committees for the

Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD). She facilitated the Innovative Teaching Workshop on June 3, 2015, at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, and she presented "A Little Can Go a Long Way: Incorporating Professional Identity and Ethics in an Already Busy First Year Legal Writing Classroom" at the ALWD Biennial Conference. She also published an article Citations: Suggestions for Citing Authority without Distracting the Reader, in the Kentucky Bench & Bar.



MICHAEL P. HEALY published his article Means and Ends in City of Arlington v. FCC: Ignoring the Lawyer's Craft to Reshape the

Scope of Chevron Deference in the University of Pittsburgh Law Review. He was reappointed as the University of Kentucky's academic ombud for the 2015–16 academic year.



MELISSA H. HENKE was selected to make two presentations at the Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) Conference in June 2015

in Memphis, Tennessee. She also received UK Law's 2014 Duncan Teaching Award.



NICOLE HUBERFELD
published several articles,
including The University
of Medicaid at Fifty in
the Yale Journal of
Health Policy Law Ethics

and Medicaid Expansion as
Completion of the Great Society in the
University of Illinois Law Review Slip
Opinions. Her analysis and
commentary piece, The Supreme
Court Ruling That Blocked Providers
from Seeking Higher Medicaid
Payments Also Undercut the Entire
Program, was published in the
July 2015 issue of Health Affairs.
She was also selected as the new
Ashland- Spears Distinguished
Research Professor.



MARK
KIGHTLINGER
originated a
Jurisprudence course
that he taught for the
first time in Spring 2015.



DIANE B. KRAFT
recently published her
article CREAC in the Real
World, in the Cleveland
State Law Review.



BOB LAWSON was featured in an article in the Lexington Herald-Leader entitled, "After 50 Years at UK the Man Who Wrote Much of

Kentucky Law and Investigated UK Athletics is Retiring." He also retired on June 30, 2015 after serving the law school for 50 years.



cortney E. Lollar testified before the Department of Defense's Judicial Proceedings Panel in Washington, D.C. on March 13, 2015. The

Department of Defense established the Judicial Proceedings Panel to conduct an independent review and assessment of judicial proceedings conducted under the Uniform Code of Military Justice involving adult sexual assault and related offenses. At the request of Congress, the hearing focused on compensation and restitution for sexual assault victims. Lollar spoke as part of a panel of legal scholars with expertise in restitution and sexual assault.



DOUG MICHAEL testified on February 26, 2015 before the State Senate Banking and Insurance Committee on

SB 202, the Uniform

Voidable Transactions Act. Testimony was based on his 1997 article The Past and Future of Kentucky's Fraudulent Transfer and Preference Laws.



KATHRYN L. MOORE published her book Understanding Employee Benefits Law.



KAREN NUCKOLLS' article LC Subject Headings, FAST Headings, Apps: Diversity Can Be Problematic in the 21st

Century will appear in Rethinking Technical Services, v.6 in the series Creating the 21st Century Library.



MELYNDA J. PRICE served as the Director of African American and Africana Studies Program for the University of Kentucky. She also

presented Ferguson, Race and the Law with Allison Connelly and Cortney Lollar at the KBA 2015 Annual Convention.



FRANKLIN RUNGE
published his article
Keeping Up with New
Legal Titles in the Law
Library Journal, which is
a review of Courtney I.P.

Thomas' book In Food We Trust: The Politics of Purity in American Food Regulation. He is also serving as the Interim Head of Admissions for the law school.



PAUL SALAMANCA received UK Law's 2015 Duncan Teaching Award.



COLLIN D. SCHUELER's article An Administrative Stopgap for Migrants from the Northern Triangle will be published in the Michigan Journal

of Law Reform. He was also recognized by the University of Kentucky as a "Teacher Who Made a Difference."



ROBERT G. SCHWEMM was sited in Justice Kennedy's majority opinion in the June 25, 2015 Supreme Court decision, *Texas* 

Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project, Inc., 576 U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ (2015).



**BEAU STEENKEN'**s article The Crisis in Legal Education as a Catalyst for Change was published in the AALL Spectrum.



WILLIAM THRO
published his article The
Coal Miner's Daughter
Preference: A Review Of
Cashin's Place Not Race:
A New Vision of

Opportunity In America in the Journal of College & University Law. He also presented at several conferences, including the National Association of College & University Attorneys'
Conference for Lawyers New to Higher
Education, National Education Finance
Conference, and National Conference
on Law & Higher Education.



RICHARD H.
UNDERWOOD
submitted a paper on
Billy the Kid at a
conference held at Touro
Law School.



RYAN A. VALENTIN is managing the Kentucky Law Alumni Preservation Project by migrating historic class composites to UKnowledge. To date,

class information for 1910, 1911, 1918, 1920, 1921, and 1922 have been completed. He, along with the other law librarians, successfully hosted the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL) Annual Conference in Lexington, Kentucky on April 16–18, 2015.



**SARAH WELLING** was quoted by the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. The quote was from her treatise Federal Practice

& Procedure: Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure § 626 (4th ed.). The citing case was Cuevas v. United States, No. 14-1296, 2015 WL 545132 (1st Cir. Feb. 11, 2015).



RICHARD A. WESTIN co-authored the book, Guia Fiscal para Inversiones Mexico–E.U (Tax Guide for Investment Between Mexico and the

United States), which will be published by Do Prosecutor Editors.



ANDREW WOODS' report, Data Beyond Borders, was published by the Global Network Initiative. He also presented the report to

the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C.

# Bootstrapping

By: Rebekah Tilley

The mythos of the American Dream is perhaps most succinctly expressed by the admonition to "pull yourself up by your bootstraps." It suggests that through gritty, hard work, all Americans can improve their life merely by their own efforts. Each one of the people profiled here would be a model "bootstraps" story. They all overcame some type of socio-economic challenge of origin, and have achieved and are achieving great things.

While each individual put in extraordinary effort, they all credit other people as necessary factors in helping them attain their success. The paths are diverse, but a degree from UK Law is a critical part of the successful journey of each of the following five individuals.

# PHILLIP B. HUNTER (1973)

### Congressional Gold Medal Recipient



On Sunday, March 7, 1965, a small group of courageous men and women embarked on the first of three civil rights marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama by crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge. This was before they were surrounded by white nuns and led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They filed two abreast over the bridge and were met on the other side by a formidable line of state troopers with long clubs and gas masks. Phillip B. Hunter, age 17, was with them.

Hunter grew up in Selma. His parents were active in the civil rights movement of the 1940s, 50s and 60s when it was highly

unpopular and incredibly dangerous. Prior to Brown v. Board of Education, Hunter's father petitioned for integration of the Selma City Schools. The local newspaper published the names of everyone who signed the petition, causing people to lose their jobs and be hounded by the Ku Klux Klan. This terrorism led many people to take their names off the petition. Hunter's father and seven others, who came to be known as the Courageous Eight, refused to take their names off the list.

"I'm always surprised that my father wasn't killed back then based on his civil right involvement," said Hunter. "My mother was a warrior also. The Klan would call and they would say, 'I'm coming to get you tonight.' And she would say, 'Come on! I'm waiting on you!' I say that to explain part of me, that they taught us to take a stand."

The day Hunter crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, he was already a seasoned civil rights foot soldier, having numerous demonstrations, marches and even a two-week stint in jail for civil rights activities under his belt. Wearing running shoes, Hunter and two high school buddies who always marched together in order to watch out for each, started across the bridge.

"We were always afraid whenever we embarked upon a march," recalled Hunter when asked how he summoned the courage to cross the bridge. "The preachers emboldened us to continue because God was on our side and rightness was on our side. We knew there was a good possibility that we would be hurt, injured or killed. We knew that. But I guess at some point in time, you develop courage to continue on because the system was so oppressive, and segregation and the apartheid system was so negative that we didn't have too many choices but to go forward in a nonviolent manner."

Hunter crossed over the bridge and walked a bit further before the law enforcement officers began beating and tear-gassing the crowd back.

# **Alumni Impact**



"Women were crying and everyone was being brutalized," Hunter recounted.
"Horses were trampling some folks. It didn't matter if you were male or female. Their orders were to turn us around and that is what they did. Tear gas got in my eyes and I could hardly see. I thought I could out run that tear gas, but I couldn't. Billy clubs were swinging and the surprising thing is your level of awareness when you are in danger. You see troopers swinging and you don't try to run into it. You try to avoid it!"

"Bloody Sunday," as the march became known, was a turning point in the civil rights movement. It mobilized President Johnson and the American public and ultimately led to the passage five months later of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Hunter graduated from high school a few months after the Bloody Sunday march and later attended Tennessee State University (TSU). He had determined in elementary school that he would become an attorney.

"I pictured myself as a freedom fighter," said Hunter. "We were foot soldiers and a

legal career was along that line of advocacy for poor folks, the needy and civil rights. I didn't have an attorney as a mentor growing up. But it was set in my mind that I was going to be a lawyer and nothing was going to deter me from being a lawyer."

When he was a senior in college, a student of color, Richard Gentry (UK Law '72), from UK Law came down to TSU to recruit students. Hunter applied, was accepted and subsequently enrolled in 1970.

"Coming out of a historically black college, enrolling in a white law school was an experience," said Hunter. "With my knowledge of the civil rights movement and how oppressive folks could be, I can't say I was the most objective person. I was always suspicious of professors. Overall, most professors were receptive toward an influx of black students. There were students who were very friendly toward me and that surprised me. But I constantly questioned their motives."

After law school, Hunter went on to a successful career in public and private

practice. He achieved the rank of captain in the U.S. Army JAG Corp, where he practiced at Fort Campbell, Kentucky for three years before starting his own private practice in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Hunter brought Arnold B. Lynch (UK Law '79) into his practice and later transferred the practice to him when he left to pursue other business ventures and to later work as a litigation attorney for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Cabinet of Human Resources, in the early 1980s. He was later hired by the federal government as an attorney-advisor. In 2010, after 31 years of federal employment, Hunter retired as a civilian contract attorney (GS-15) with the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command.

"My legal education from Kentucky provided me a great deal of confidence and prepared me to handle various positions of authority. I credit my clinical training and UK's professors for preparing me for the myriad of challenges I faced in my career."

On March 7, 2015, Hunter found himself back on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

President Obama, who had just signed a Congressional Gold Medal bill awarding the highest civilian honor to the foot soldiers of the Voting Rights Movement, joined him. In a private meeting before the 50th anniversary march, President Obama thanked Hunter and his fellow foot soldiers for their courage on that day and stated that without them, he wouldn't have been president.

"The stage was set with my parents," replies Hunter when asked what structures were in place in his life that allowed him to fight for freedom whether through clouds of tear gas or in the courtroom. "My father and my mother, they always wanted us to be good citizens and good people. The church was an integral part of my life, telling us that God is on our side and don't be discouraged. My mother always provided encouragement to all of us not to hate anybody, to love everybody, do your best, honor God. The incentive for me to achieve was really to honor my parents, honor my family and be an advocate for the people as much as I could be."



# **NATALIE WILSON (1968)**

### Partner, Gess, Mattingly & Atchison

When Natalie S. Wilson was sworn in to the Kentucky Bar in 1968, it was such an oddity that a picture of her appeared in the local paper. Wilson was hardly the first woman to graduate from UK Law, rather she was part of the early wave of 1960s feminists who entered professional school while raising small children. The picture in the paper that day was of Wilson standing with her husband and three children.

"It was done in the vein of 'Isn't this unusual. Here's a woman that's going to practice law and look, she's a mother,'" recalls Wilson about the picture.



Wilson had considered going to law school after graduating from Smith College in 1954. She even requested admission information from Harvard Law School, not realizing they didn't accept women at that time. Though when the information came to Mr. Natalie Stearns "I figured it out rather quickly," said Wilson wryly. Ultimately, she decided asking her parents to pay for law school was too burdensome, as she had four younger siblings who needed a college education.

A native of Maine and politically active, Wilson applied for a job in the Eisenhower Administration. The day after graduation, she arrived at the White House where she worked for the next three years for Maxwell M. Rabb, Secretary to the Cabinet.

"I found out that working at the White House in those days meant you went to work at 7:00 a.m. and sometimes you got away at 11:00 p.m.," said Wilson. "What I was hired to do was basically serve as a file clerk and typist, so my prestigious Smith College education didn't have a whole lot of influence. But I was able to write, so I quickly progressed and even drafted very small sections of the Eisenhower's State of the Union speeches."

Despite her demanding White House schedule, Wilson met a young Navy officer stationed at the Pentagon and they were married in 1956. Exactly a year later their first child was born. "In those days you took the babies the Lord sent you. You didn't have that much control over it," laughed Wilson. This prompted a move out of Washington, D.C. and to Kentucky—where her husband George grew up—and two more children followed.

Ten years later, when her youngest was about to start kindergarten, Wilson enrolled in UK Law. At the time, though she had read and was influenced by the Feminine Mystique written by fellow Smith alumnus Betty Friedan, Wilson reports that she was following her own "book worm" interests when she decided to pursue law school.

"To be honest, I was incredibly naïve when I started law school," said Wilson. "I knew there weren't very many women lawyers, but I thought that was because women weren't very interested. I didn't realize then that it was a man's world. It was quite a surprise to me when I'd been in law school for half a year and suddenly I realized it was a class of 155 and I think there were five women in the class."

# Alumni Impact

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Mother Becomes An Attorney

When Mrs. Natalie S. Wilson of Lexington took the prescribed oath making her a full-fledged attorney at law in ceremonies at frankfort yesterday, she had her husband and three children as proud spectators. Members of the family group are: Back row, Husband George Wilson, 282 Farmington Road, and Mrs. Wilson, and, from left in front row, Ward Wilson, 11; Gretchen Wilson, 8, and Eleanor Wilson, 9.

### Local Mother, 33, Is Sworn In As Attorney

FRANKFORT, Ky. - A 33-the long schooling required to year-old Lexington housewife acquire that status. and mother of three children, Mrs. Natalie S. Wilson, joined ford, Maine, graduated fourth in the legal profession after taking the required constitutional School and won the award of the Cold She carry duelling.

She was flanked by four sity of Kentucky Law Journal, other women and 128 men in Mrs. Wilson worked in the joining the ranks of attorneys White House as an aide to Max after passing the examination white House as an aide to max Rabb, secretary of the cabinet, prescribed by the State Board during the Eisenhower adminisof Bar Commissioners.

here by her husband, George versity of Kentucky. Wilson, 282 Farmington Road, Lexington, and their three chil-

she was not enthusiastic about H. Eblen.

Mrs. Wilson, a native of Rumoath which includes a ban on the Order of the Coif. She served on the staff of the Univer-

during the Eisenhower adminis-Mrs. Wilson was accompanied tration. She graduated with ere by her husband. George high distinction from the Uni-

Mrs. Wilson will join the staff dren, Ward, 11; Eleanor, 9; and of the law firm of Eblen, Howretchen, 8. ard and Miner, Lexington, The eight-year-old vowed she, which is raded by former too, wanted to be a lawyer, but Court of Appeals Judge Amos While a handful of women had earned legal degrees over the past many decades, nationally very few had managed to break into the legal profession in a substantial way such as becoming a partner in a major firm—something Wilson achieved in the late 1970s. While in law school, Wilson was told early on that the best she could hope for was to get a job in state government or become a legal secretary. Instead, Professor Bob Lawson, impressed with Wilson's strong writing, recommended her to the firm he had worked part time in the year before Wilson graduated, and that is where she got her start.

Now a partner with Gess, Mattingly & Atchison in Lexington, Kentucky, Wilson began her legal career in estate planning and tax law, but her early publicity as being both an attorney and a mother brought a large number of family law clients looking for someone like them to walk them through some very difficult times in their lives.

"It's very easy for lawyers to become desensitized to the emotional problems of families in distress in divorce cases," said Wilson. "I think because I've been there and been through the rigors of raising a family, I was sensitive to it. That is a characteristic that is true of most family law lawyers. They recognize the emotional, social problems in taking care of families in distress. Frankly, for me, it's the most hands-on area of practice that it's possible to be in. It was very satisfying to know there is something you can do to help the family unit if they will let you."

Particularly while in law school, but also afterward as she launched her legal career, Wilson relied on her family for support. Fifty years before Sheryl Sandburg's Lean In pointed out the impact of marriage on career success, Wilson credits a "sound marriage," strong relationships with her children, and occasional help from her mother with getting through the exam periods and those universally busy weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. After starting her practice, she had a caretaker to help with childcare.

"At that time I didn't think it was possible to have a part-time law practice," said Wilson. "You couldn't say to the judge, 'I need to go now. It's 2:30pm and I need to run and pick up my kids at school.""

A trailblazer in her field, Wilson has long encouraged more women to enter the legal profession. One of the most radical social shifts Wilson lived through was the feminist revolution. "I'm proud to say that I'm a feminist. Change number one is women have learned they need to be educated, they need to be independent, and they need to be able to support themselves. An awful lot of people helped me to accomplish what I've accomplished and that was in large part because I was a woman who got the advantage of the people who went before me."

# **JUSTICE BILL CUNNINGHAM (1969)**

### Kentucky Supreme Court

As a small child, Bill Cunningham was a batboy in the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville, Kentucky. Opened in 1889 and still in use today as a maximum and supermax security prison, the "castle on the Cumberland" was just across the street from Cunningham's childhood home. His father worked on the river, and his family lived in the government reservation lock-house. For Cunningham, life within the walls of the prison took on a similar normalcy as life outside the prison, and these youthful interactions developed in him a profound compassion and respect for prison inmates that he carried with him throughout his career.

Raised in a typical small western Kentucky town with solid, strict southern Baptist sensibilities, the legal profession was appealing for its opportunity to touch the most lives and do the most good. Cunningham's brother-in-law was an attorney and a major career influence. But it was the example and expectation of his parents that Cunningham describes as key. Despite having completed the requirements, his father repeated the 8th grade three times because he couldn't afford to go to high school but had such a thirst for education. Today, his father's 8th grade diploma hangs in Cunningham's office in the Kentucky State Capitol.

"My parents lived a life that set themselves as an example," said Cunningham. "You see your dad working day and night on the river, sometimes in some pretty dangerous situations. You see your mom going to teach at a two-room schoolhouse where she collects the kindling on Sunday nights to start the fire in the potbelly stove the next morning in the country school. You grow up seeing these things and you know that if you go anywhere, you're going to have to work hard."

Cunningham took that work ethic with him to law school. During his 3L year, he worked three jobs including weekend

deliveries for Sir Pizza on Romany Road. Four years as an Army JAG officer serving in Germany, Vietnam and Korea followed law school.

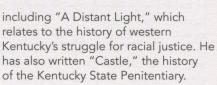
"The service was a huge part of my education," said Cunningham. "I tried cases all over the world. It was a tremendous experience. I hadn't seen the Atlantic Ocean or ridden in an airplane until I was 21 years old. I was pretty wet behind the ears. My life would have been really limited without this experience. I think I would have been diminished because of lack of broadening viewpoints. Mary Twain said 'travel is fatal to prejudice' and that was pretty much the situation with me."

After leaving the military, Cunningham took a job as a public defender at Kentucky State Penitentiary for two years before serving as Commonwealth's Attorney for over a decade. He was a circuit court judge for 15 years before being elected to the Kentucky Supreme Court in 2006.

Initially concerned by the lack of persons of color on his juries, over the years Cunningham has quietly worked to advance minority investment in the justice system, as well as encouraging Kentucky children of color to consider careers as lawyers, police officers and other law enforcement jobs.

"It's not only important that our justice system be fair, it also must appear fair. It must appear just," said Cunningham. "Several years ago on my birthday my oldest son asked me what was the greatest change I had seen in my lifetime, and I told him civil rights and the ending of the Cold War. Those were the biggest changes we've seen. Though sometimes today I wonder how far we've really come."

A great storyteller in the southern tradition, Cunningham has written a number of books on regional history,



Whether defending, prosecuting or sitting as judge, Cunningham approaches defendants and inmates with a profound sense of compassion and respect. As you would with a childhood home, he still visits Kentucky State Penitentiary regularly.

"I am comfortable with inmates," said Cunningham. "I have friends in the penitentiary. A lot of guys I sent there have been there for several years and we have a certain amount of mutual respect, and we have become friends over the years. I'm not talking about a whole lot. Just a few guys I've gotten to know over time. Simply, it's part of my DNA. Part of the calling. You reach out, try to be an influence on them. I think if you are exposed to people like that, you realize that almost all of them are Jekyll and Hyde. But for good strong parents and that sort of thing, you could have been there. You get to know them as human beings, and know that they are capable of doing some very bad things, but at the same time they are capable of being very good people."

When asked if other attorneys are friends with some of the people they put away, Cunningham responds ruefully, "Probably not. In fact, my wife and my secretary all think I'm a little weird."

# Alumni Impact



# PROF. BIFF CAMPBELL (1969)

### UK College of Law

"I had a suitcase and my guitar on a Greyhound bus—it's like a cheap movie," said Hyden, Kentucky native Professor Rutheford B. Campbell, Jr. "Between Hyden and Boston, someone stole my guitar and my suitcase was lost. I'm 18 years old. I show up at the bus station in Boston. 1962. They unpack the bus. I'm 18 years old and all I have is a sweater and transistor radio."

Born at home and delivered by Frontier Nursing Service midwives in Leslie County, Kentucky, Campbell was raised in a place with strong community structures. Extended families were extensive and closely knit. The opening of the county courthouse each season was cause for celebration. Churches were strong spiritual, educational and recreational centers providing religious instruction, church league sports teams and venues for Boy Scouts. And Campbell's father's drug store was an institution.

"It was the social nexus for the entire town, that little drug store was," recalls Campbell. "The kids rode in there after school and got their cherry Pepsi. Courting went on in there. The business people came in there for coffee. This is fairly typical of little towns up in eastern Kentucky but my father's drug store, more than any other little town around, was the heart of the social scene. He kept it open seven days a week and he probably worked at that drug store 95–100 hours a week. But he loved it. It was quite a place."

While rich in community structure and culture, Campbell and his peers were challenged by a poverty of education and

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resources. Campbell spent much of high school playing in eastern Kentucky rock bands. In 1962, he graduated from Leslie County High School and got on that Greyhound bus bound for Berklee College of Music in Boston, one of the best jazz schools in the country at that time.

"I crashed up there in the sense that it became apparent that I didn't have the talent to play at the level I wanted to so I came back, but that whole experience was very important to me," said Campbell. "It was a bridge between a high school that wasn't the best one in the state and jumping into Centre College, which was a great little school."

From Berklee College of Music to Centre College to UK Law, and then an LL.M. from Harvard Law School, Campbell's family provided the support and example that allowed him to achieve professional success. After practicing law at White & Case in New York and as a partner with Stoll, Keenon & Park, Campbell began teaching at UK Law in 1973.

Former Kentucky Governor Happy Chandler famously said, "I never met a Kentuckian who wasn't either thinking about going home or actually going home." This spirit has been written about most famously by Wendell Berry and lived out by people like Justice Cunningham in western Kentucky and Campbell in eastern Kentucky. Despite being a Lexington resident for more than 40 years, Campbell deliberately continues to be active in his home region, traveling there roughly twice a month and staying over in his parent's old house. Currently, he is on the advisory board for the Kentucky School of Bluegrass and Traditional Music, the board of directors of Hyden Citizens Bank, and for a number of years he was on the board of the Frontier Nursing Service. More than anything, he credits his legal education with equipping him to give back to the community that brought him safely into the world, raised him and express shipped a new guitar to him in Boston in 1962 to replace the one that was lost.

"Whether you wind up practicing law or not, lawyers are always involved in the shaping and governance of the society and organizations that are important," said Campbell. "What I always tell my students, what I'm interested in is to prepare you to practice law but also prepare you for life because you're going to be on the bank board, you're going to be on the school board, you're going to be on the hospital board, you're going to be business people. That is what I like so much about legal training. The degree prepares you to function at a significant level professionally and in your community, and it is quite likely that you are going to be called upon to do that. And the reason you'll be called upon is because you are a lawyer."

# PACO VILLALOBOS (2011)

### Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, Fayette County, Kentucky

One of Paco Villalobos's earliest memories is his father quizzing him with alphabet flashcards. As Villalobos grew, the flashcards progressed from ABCs to addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. The constant was his father's faithful encouragement and coaching. Today, Villalobos is an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in Fayette County, and he credits his parents with preparing him to pursue law school.

"He and my mother have been the big supporters in my life," Villalobos said. "They gave me the confidence to keep doing what I'm doing. Without them I wouldn't be where I am. A lot of that drives from how they grew up and the advantages or opportunities that were either available or not available to them that are now available to my sister and me."

Villalobos's father emigrated from Mexico to Chicago when he was a small child. He enlisted in the Army straight out of high school and, while he did earn some college credits through the military, he never graduated from college. While stationed overseas, he met Villalobos's mother—a German national who describes her family's economic circumstances growing up as having "a limited wardrobe." Villalobos was born in Hawaii, lived in Germany as a child long enough to speak better German than English, and grew up in a typical Army family where regular moves were the only constant. Villalobos's father retired from the Army and moved the family to Shelbyville, Kentucky, where Villalobos graduated from Shelby County High School. He completed his undergraduate degree at UK, and then decided to go to law school.

"My parents would tell you I just like to argue about everything so it was a natural fit," joked Villalobos when asked why he decided to be an attorney. "I'm a big history buff. I was drawn to law because it is very entangled with history."

As a law student, Villalobos claims he had no intention of doing any type of litigation work. After participating in the Kentucky Legal Education Opportunity (KLEO) Summer Institute, Professor Allison Connelly encouraged him to try out for a mock trial competition team.

"I made the inter-state team that year," recalls Villalobos. "And I loved

it. I knew then I wanted to be a trial attorney. I wanted to be in the courtroom in a position that would allow me to do that as much as possible."

After law school, Villalobos worked for three years as Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in Madison County before coming to Fayette County in May 2014. He finds the work very satisfying not only for the impact it has in bringing justice to bear in specific cases, but also for how it allows him to sink his roots even deeper into the community.

"Being in the military, we moved so often that each place was a place that I lived but never home," explains Villalobos. "Being in Lexington, this has become my home. For me personally, finally having a home makes me care more about the community I'm in. This is where I am married. This is where I'm having children. This is where I went to school. This is where I've grown into my adulthood and into my career. This is my home and it's made me care a lot about it having moved around for so long."

Villalobos is still conversant in German but not Spanish. "It's a running joke around here," said Villalobos. "I have one of the most Hispanic sounding names you'll ever hear and I don't speak Spanish." While his family background and life experiences to this point have shaped him, and they are something that he brings to his practice of law, Villalobos is clear about the role that background and those experiences play in his life.

"Growing up I've been proud of where my father and my mother come from as being part of who I am but it's never really defined me," said Villalobos. "I don't describe myself as a Hispanic attorney or a German attorney or a German-Hispanic attorney. I just am who I am. We celebrate our differences but we don't define ourselves by those."

# Alumni Hall of Fame

On June 17 in Lexington, Kentucky, UK Law and the Law Alumni Association inducted three new members into the 2015 Hall of Fame at an alumni reception held annually in conjunction with the Kentucky Bar Association Convention.

The Hall of Fame was established to acknowledge graduates and/or former faculty members who have achieved extraordinary professional success, have a high degree of character and integrity, and have had a profound positive impact on the College of Law. The three Hall of Fame inductees are Carolyn S. Bratt, John M. Famularo, and the late John G. Heyburn II.



### **CAROLYN S. BRATT, 1975–2008**

Professor Bratt is a magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, graduate of Syracuse University College of Law. She earned

her undergraduate degree at the State University of New York at Albany. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Kentucky in 1975, she clerked for the Presiding Justice of the New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division.

During her 33 years on the faculty, Professor Bratt devoted her time to teaching, researching, and writing in the areas of property, constitutional and anti-discrimination law. On two occasions, the law students recognized her with their Outstanding Teacher Award. She received the law school's Duncan Award for her outstanding contribution to legal education. Professor Bratt was also the recipient of the University of Kentucky's Great Teacher Award and the Cassis Award

given by the law school for "excellence in legal research and scholarship."

Professor Bratt served as a Special Justice on the Kentucky Supreme Court and as an administrative law judge with the Kentucky Cabinet for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. She was also appointed to the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance and the Lexington Fayette Urban County Planning Commission.

Professor Bratt was appointed by Governor Martha Layne Collins to serve as chair of the Kentucky Governor's Commission on Women. She co-chaired the American Bar Association's Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender-Identity Discrimination and was a driving force behind the adoption of the Lexington-Fayette County's Fairness Ordinance.

She was chosen to chair the Faculty Senate and to represent the faculty as their trustee on the UK Board of Trustees. Professor Bratt served as the inaugural chair of the University of Kentucky President's Commission on Women. The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights honored Professor Bratt as a "tireless fighter for civil rights in general and women's rights in particular" when she was inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

Professor Bratt was the recipient of numerous civic and professional awards including the YWCA Woman of Achievement Award, Midway College's Women's History Month Award, Central Kentucky Civil Liberties Union Distinguished Service Award, and the University of Kentucky's William Lyons Public Service Award. Most recently, she was honored by the Kentucky Civil Liberties Union by inclusion in its "Faces of Liberty" project celebrating their sixty years of defending liberty and pursuing justice in the Commonwealth.

### JOHN M. FAMULARO, 1971

John M. Famularo of Stites & Harbison is one of the most respected lawyers in the state of Kentucky and the

United States, having maintained an active practice for more than 40 years. Throughout his career, John has handled numerous high-profile and renowned cases throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky and beyond. In addition to successfully securing verdicts in hundreds of cases, John successfully argued the boundary dispute case of Ohio v. Kentucky before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973—a mere two years after graduating from law school. A nationally recognized Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, John focuses his practice on the defense of pharmaceutical companies, product liability matters, class action defense and complex litigation. He has served as General Counsel for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington, Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, first assistant prosecutor for the 22nd Judicial Circuit and Chief Judge of the 22nd Judicial District sitting in Lexington, Kentucky. John is an outstanding mentor and has trained many lawyers who have become proficient trial lawyers under his tutelage.

John's civic and community involvement has included participation on the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Board of Directors, the Board of Governors of the Kentucky Bar Association, and President of the

School Boards for Christ the King Parochial School and Lexington Catholic High School. In addition to John's distinguished recognition as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, John maintains AV-Preeminent status with Martindale-Hubbell®, the publication's highest honor; is recognized by Best Lawyers in America®—even being honored as the Defendants' Lawyer of the Year in 2012 for the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and is recognized as a Litigation Star by Benchmark Litigation. A graduate of Loyola University and UK Law, when not practicing law, John enjoys Kentucky basketball, horse racing, fishing, hunting, golf and travel. John and his wife, Karen, have been married for 44 years, and have three children and three grandchildren.



### JOHN G. HEYBURN II\*, 1976

In 1992, the Honorable John G. Heyburn II was nominated to the United States District Court

for the Western District of Kentucky by President George H. W. Bush on the recommendation of U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell.

Judge Heyburn graduated from UK Law in 1976 after graduating from Milton Academy (1966) and Harvard University (1970). In law school, he was a runner-up in the Sixth Circuit Moot Court Competition and a member of the Order of Barristers. He later served as President of the Law School Alumni Association and established the Henry R. Heyburn Alumni and Public Service award to honor his father, a founder of Brown, Todd and Heyburn, political and civic leader, state senator, and World

War II Veteran who earned both a Silver Star and a Bronze Star. Judge Heyburn began his legal career at Brown, Todd and Heyburn, where he specialized in commercial litigation and was a partner.

Judge Heyburn has been described as a master of the courtroom, a delightful colleague, an artful chief judge, a leader in the nation's judiciary budget process and a force of nature in the development of procedures to manage the nation's most complex and intractable lawsuits. He presided over thousands of cases including some of the most controversial issues facing the courts today: recognition of same sex marriages, restrictions on access to abortion and infringements on the First Amendment's guarantees. No matter the topic, his opinions reflected his unshakeable sense of fairness, respect for litigants, and commitment to clear, logical and thoughtful rulings.

His unfailing passion for the rule of law and dedication to improving all entities with which he was associated caused him to rise to national leadership in the federal judiciary, serving as Chairs of the Budget Committee (1997-2005) and Judicial Panel for Multidistrict Litigation (2007–2014).

For nearly four years, he continued to advance his full case load while undergoing treatments for cancer. He approached his illness with the qualities that had so consistently governed his life: intelligence, courage, realism, gratitude, and—sometimes against all odds—his trademark sense of humor. On April 29, 2015, he succumbed to complications of his treatment, leaving behind a living legacy of his loving wife, two sons, extended family, law clerks, and the institutions he served and worked to make better.

\*Honored Posthumously



# 5 th ANNUAL UK COLLEGE OF LAW GOLF TOURNAMENT



The College of Law hosted its fourth annual UK College of Law Golf Tournament presented by LexisNexis on Monday, May 18, at Keene Trace Golf Club. UK Law alumni, faculty, students, and friends came together for a great day of friendly competition.

Since starting the tournament in 2011, the College of Law has raised over \$57,000 to support student scholarships and place students in summer public interest positions.

Once again, LexisNexis served as presenting sponsor of the tournament. Thank you to our sponsors, companies, and individuals who made monetary or in kind donations.

We are already making plans for next year's event be on the lookout for details. You have some time to get out the clubs and start practicing!



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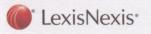




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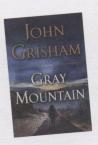
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# Alumni Impact



# **GRAY MOUNTAIN**

# Alumnus Consults with John Grisham on Latest Novel

### By: Rebekah Tilley

Novelist John Grisham's latest book, *Gray Mountain*, is set in the mountains of Appalachia and deals with legal issues such as black lung, mine safety and mountaintop removal. After 368 pages of fast-paced plot complete with cliffhangers, mysterious death and knotty legal issues like only Grisham can deliver, the brief author's note gives a warm tribute to alumnus Wes Addington (UK Law '04), deputy director of the Appalachian Citizens' Law Center.

Thankfully, there are dozens of nonprofits working diligently in the coalfields to protect the environment, change policy and fight for the rights of miners and their families. One is the Appalachian Citizens' Law Center in Whitesburg, Kentucky. Mary Cromer and Wes Addington are wonderful lawyers there, and they provided guidance as I wandered through their region for the first time.

-John Grisham in author's note

Wes Addington has deep roots in Kentucky coal mining: his father, grandfather and all four of his great-grandfathers were coal miners. Addington has vivid memories of his father's working years where he would come home covered in coal dust, sore and with many physical ailments related to his job. His father strongly encouraged him to do something

else with his life other than work in the mines.

"That's one thing my dad really wanted for me was not to have to work in the conditions he did," said Addington. "Coal miners are tough people. It's a very difficult and dangerous job."

After his 2L year at UK College of Law, Addington was awarded a summer externship with the Appalachian Citizens' Law Center (ACLC), founded in 2002 to provide free legal services to Appalachian citizens who are impacted by extractive industries in the region. This includes environmental impacts, mine safety, federal black lung and advocacy surrounding all three issues. After his externship experience, Addington received an Equal Justice Works fellowship and began working full-time for ACLC in 2004 after graduating from law school. He focused his practice on mine safety and black lung.

It was his experience with these obscure legal issues that brought John Grisham to his office in May 2014.

After connecting with Mary Cromer, a staff attorney with ACLC, Grisham made a site visit to Whitesburg where he met Addington. Over the summer, Addington and Grisham corresponded through email and Grisham allowed



Addington and Cromer to review a draft of his book—primarily to fact-check the technical legal issues.

"I was really impressed at his level of detail and understanding of these issues," said Addington. "Mine safety and federal black lung benefits are pretty obscure areas of the law. There are few attorneys around the country who will take a federal black lung benefits claim and we know most of them."

Gray Mountain has a number of characters whose lives are touched by black lung disease—an incurable illness caused by prolonged exposure to coal dust. The novel is set in the aftermath of the 2008 financial collapse that sends a young New York financial attorney into the hills and courtrooms of western Virginia, where she volunteers in a legal aid office that handles legal services cases as well

as cases similar to what ACLC deals with. The novel provides a good deal of black lung legal education.

Grisham focuses the plot squarely around the issues of black lung and mountaintop removal. In many ways, the book reads as a persuasive call to action as much as a novel. That, combined with a generous shout out in the author's note, has led to a significant uptick in interest in ACLC.

"I've been amazed at the number of people across the country that have read the book, and then contacted our office directly," said Addington. "Some asking to volunteer and others asking what they can do personally."

While readers may perceive Gray Mountain as being anti-coal, Addington contends that what is really at issue is advocating for the health

and safety of miners to best preserve the unique culture and character of the Appalachian coal mining region.

"Coal mining in Appalachia can be done safely in a way that miners make it home every day from work, and it can be done in a way that their health is preserved at the end of their career, and their lungs are essentially as healthy as anyone else's when they are 60 years old," said Addington. "I see it from that perspective. Coal mining isn't going away. It's a reality and you want to put miners in the best position they can be in terms of their health and safety, and that's good for their families here in the region too."

When exchanging emails with Grisham, Addington reports he did not have many expectations about the impact the novel would have on public awareness of mine safety.

"I knew there was a good chance that the book would be very, very widely read," said Addington. "I think the response that our office has gotten just from a couple of sentences that he placed in the author's note is amazing. I can only imagine how many people read the book and didn't actually write a letter or call."

Addington laughs off the suggestion that any of the characters in the novel were modeled after him, though he can see a number of parallels between the novel's main character and Mary Cromer. Unlike another character in the book, perhaps fortuitously as readers of the novel know, Addington has no intention of becoming a licensed pilot.

Gray Mountain is published by Doubleday and available wherever books are sold.

### **KENTUCKY LAW ALUMNI PRESERVATION PROJECT**

# Bridging the Gap Between Past and Present

Many visitors to UK Law inquire about the class composites lining the hallways. Who were these students? Where did they come from and where did they go? Did they fall in love, have families, go off to war? What became of their lives? The primary purpose of the Kentucky Law Alumni Preservation Project is to begin to answer such questions by bridging the gap between past and present. By gathering biographical information for the names and faces of these alumni, beginning with the first graduating class of 1910, we can start to gain some understanding of those who came before us.

Learning the curious details of past lives is the reward that keeps this research going. The Kentuckian had this to say about South "B.B. Special" Strong, Class of 1910: "Never did Jackson have his equal. Fatally infected with

the curse of Bloody Breathitt, once did he threaten the life of poor little Teddy Bear Vaughn, and since then no one has dared cross him in any way. May God grant that he gets back to the hills of his birth without adding another notch to his gun barrel." Mr. Strong returned to Breathitt to live and practice law in Jackson, Kentucky but died, according to the Kentucky Kernel, at Good Samaritan hospital in Lexington. From an entry on Find A Grave, South Strong is buried in the Combs Cemetery, Jackson, Breathitt County, aged 59 years.

To date, six classes from the earliest days of UK Law have been loaded onto the UKnowledge, "a digital collection of unique scholarship created by University of Kentucky faculty, staff, students, departments, research centers, and administration." With



many additional classes and novel holdings in various stages of production, the UK Law collections on UKnowledge are constantly being expanded.

For more information on the project, please contact Ryan Valentin, Head of Public Services, at 859-257-8346.

# **CLASS NOTES**

### 2010s



JESSICA H. BECHTEL (2014) joined the Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP Litigation group in Cincinnati, Ohio as an associate.



MAX BRIDGES (2014) joined Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, LLP as part of their Natural Resources and Environmental Service Team.

WILLIAM E. CARTWRIGHT (2014) joined Jackson Kelly PLLC's Evansville office in October 2014.



SHANNON D. LAWSON (2014) joined the Cincinnati law firm of Keating Muething & Klekamp PLL practicing in the firm's Business

Representation & Transactions Group.



GINA WARE (2014) was appointed Assistant County Attorney by Jefferson County Attorney Mike O'Connell in Louisville, Kentucky.



CORDES (2010) joined the Thomas Law Offices firm as an associate.

### 2000s



BRADLEY SALYER (2009) leads the new office of Morgan & Pottinger, P.S.C. in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

TIFFANY WILLIAMS (2009) was promoted to Director of Admissions and Diversity Services at George Mason University School of Law in October 2014.



JENNIFER BARBER
(2008) was appointed in
October 2014 by
Governor Steve Beshear
to the Kentucky State
Fair Board.



BRIDGET SHARPHORN (2008), accepted the position of Housing Manager in the Civil Rights Division of the State of Texas.

STEPHANIE M. WURDOCK (2008) received the "Young Lawyer of the Year Award" by the Kentucky Defense Counsel, Inc.

at Daniels & Sturges in Grand
Junction, Colorado, was named the
winner of the 2014 ABA Journal/
Ross Short Fiction Contest for his
story, "Good News Bad News."



J. MICHAEL
HEARON (2003)
joined Quarles & Brady,
LLP in Indianapolis,
Indiana as a member
of the firm's Commercial

Litigation Practice Group.



MELINDA
SUNDERLAND (2003)
was selected by
Business First of
Louisville as a "Forty
Under 40" honoree, an

achievement that recognizes people under the age of 40 for their leadership in the business community in addition to their strong civic engagement.



joined the Claims and Litigation Management (CLM) Alliance.



ALAN DONOHUE
(2001) was elected in
early October 2014 as
the U.S. representative to
the International Code of
Conduct Association

(ICoC). He participated in a plenary session panel at the United Nations in Geneva during the 3rd Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights.



stephen Houston (2001) was recognized by Business First magazine's annual "Forty Under 40," a list that recognizes the

achievements of business people younger than 40 in the Louisville area who are making significant, positive impacts in the business and civic communities.

### **CLASS NOTES**

### 1990s



**BRENDA DINKINS** ALLEN (1998) was hired to fill the newly created position of Director of Legal Affairs for the Louisville Regional

Airport Authority.

TREY GRAYSON (1998) was named the President/CEO of the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.



**MELISSA MOORE** MURPHY (2001) joined the Lexington Fayette **Urban County** Government as an attorney senior.



**HEATHER (WHITNEY)** CULP (1997) joined Essex Richards, P.A., in Charlotte, North Carolina.



HONORABLE BRIAN C. **EDWARDS** (1996), Jefferson Circuit Court Judge in Louisville, Kentucky, was awarded the Henry V. Pennington

Trial Judge of the Year award by the Kentucky Justice Association.

PATRICK HUGHES (1994), was elected chairman of the Kentucky Democratic Party.

JOHN R. STEFFEN (1994), was appointed the Executive Director of the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance. Mr. Steffen is also a Major in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps, where he has served as a Reservist since 2000.



KEVIN W. WEAVER (1994), managing member of Sturgill, Turner, Baker & Moloney, PLLC, was selected to join the

Leadership Kentucky Class of 2014.

RONALD G. POLLY, JR. (1991), was re-elected as Managing Partner of the national litigation firm Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young LLP.



THOMAS E. **RUTLEDGE** (1990), member of Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC, authored an article entitled A Corporation Has No

Soul—The Business Entity Law Response to Challenges to the Contraceptive Mandate of the PPACA. It was published in the William & Mary Business Law Review. This article was cited to the U.S. Supreme Court in an amicus brief submitted in the Hobby Lobby/Conestoga Specialty Wood Products cases.

### 1980s



JAMES THORNTON (1989), joined Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP as of counsel, based in its Raleigh office.



YVETTE HOURIGAN (1988) received the Dave Nee Foundation's national David S. Stoner Uncommon Counselor Award on October 11,

2014, for her efforts to educate the legal community in combatting depression and suicide through her work as director of the Kentucky Lawyer Assistance Program (KYLAP). GREGG HOVIOUS (1986), a civil trial lawyer, joined Middleton Reutlinger as of counsel.



**VIRGINIA UNDERWOOD** (1986), was elected Chair of the Board for The New Opportunity School for Women Foundation, Inc.



SCOTT WHITE (1986) was awarded the 2014 Robert F. Houlihan Memorial Award.



AMY E. DOUGHERTY (1985) joined Carolyn L. Kenton (1985) as a member of Bluegrass Elderlaw, PLLC.

ALBERT MICHAEL TUCKER (1985), was promoted to Chief Patent Counsel of BorgWarner.

JOHN G. MCNEILL (1982) received the Upholding the Torch of Excellence Award at the 24th Annual Lyman T. Johnson Awards Celebration.



**JANET NORTON** (1981) was named chief legal officer and general counsel for Baptist Health.

CHARLES L. THOMASON (1980), was awarded a Fulbright to research and teach Intellectual Property Transactions in Innsbruck, Austria.

# Alumni Impact

# IN MEMORIUM

The Honorable Armand P. Angelucci, 1947

Mr. Ben L. Kessinger, Jr., 1948

Mr. Henry C. Coldiron, 1949

The Honorable Henry Meigs II, 1949

Mr. William R. Gentry, Jr., 1952

Mr. Paul E. Hunley, 1955

The Honorable Joe Lee, 1955

The Honorable James E. Bondurant, 1956

Mr. Wayne J. Carroll, 1957

Mr. Louis J. Amato, 1958

Mr. Robert C. Shelton, 1961

Mr. Herman J. Yopp, 1963

Mr. Ralph L. Collins, 1964

Mr. James E. Keller, 1965

Mr Thomas I Roberts 1966

Mr. Kevin J. Baldwin, 1968

Mr. Robert M. Brewer, 1968

Ms. Diane E. Morris, 1973

Mr. John L. Pendley, 1974

Mr. William A. Labach, 1975

The Honorable John G. Heyburn II, 1976

Mr. James R. Wood, 1977

Mr. Mark J. Hinkel, 1983

Mr. Jonathan R. Norris, 1985

Mr. John R. Hamilton, 1988

Mr. Matthew D. Nelson, 1992

### **CLASS NOTES**

### 1970s

HONORABLE ROBERT A. WOHN,

JR. (1975) Circuit Judge in and for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, Brevard County, State of Florida, has been assigned and designated Senior Judge status for statewide judicial service by The Supreme Court of the State of Florida, effective January 1, 2015.



BUCK HINKLE, JR. (1974), partner at Stites & Harbison, received an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree from Morehead State University

in May 2014.

WILLIAM E. DAVIS (1972) delivered "20 Years in the Making: Principles and Practical Strategies for Justice Sector Reform" at U.S. Agency for International Development on September 17, 2014.

**GREG HAYNES** (1970), attorney with Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, LLP, was ranked the number one lawyer in the state of Kentucky by Super Lawyers for 2015.

DAN KEMP (1970), mayor of Hopkinsville, became the newest member of the Murray State Board of Regents. Kemp will fill a six-year term. He was elected in November 2006 as the mayor of Hopkinsville.

# **2015 ALUMNI AWARDS**

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Given to a graduate who has provided outstanding leadership in his or her local community, state or nation, to aid and benefit causes not necessarily related to the legal profession.

John Michael Williams, 1987

### DISTINGUISHED JURIST

For outstanding service to the legal profession, bringing honor to the profession and encouraging creative ways to deal with specific identified issues in the administration of justice.

Deputy Chief Justice Mary C. Noble, 1981

### PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Designed to recognize a particularly noteworthy accomplishment or sustained excellence in a particular area of law or other chosen profession.

Roger L. Nicholson, 1986 Robert F. Houlihan, Jr., 1974

### YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Designed for individuals who graduated within the past 10 years and have distinguished themselves professionally.

Deanna Wise Henschel, 2005

## 2015 Dean's Circle Firms

Each year the UK Law Alumni Association recognizes those firms whose College of Law graduates have generously given back to their alma mater. We are pleased to recognize the following firms as Dean's Circle participants.

#### **DEAN'S CIRCLE | PLATINUM**

(100% Participation)

BELL, ORR, AYERS & MOORE PSC Bowling Green

BRADLEY ARANT BOULT CUMMINGS LLP Nashville

BRYANT LAW CENTER
Paducah

DELCOTTO LAW GROUP PLLC Lexington

DENTON & KEULER LLP
Paducah

DINSMORE & SHOHL LLP Louisville

ENGLISH LUCAS PRIEST & OWSLEY, LLP
Bowling Green

FOWLER BELL PLLC Lexington

GARY C. JOHNSON, P.S.C. Pikeville

KERRICK BACHERT, P.S.C. Bowling Green

Lexington

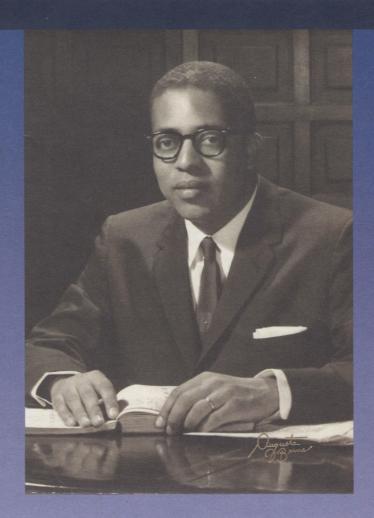
MCMURRY & LIVINGSTON, PLLC
Paducah

STITES & HARBISON, PLLC Lexington

STURGILL, TURNER, BARKER & MOLONEY, PLLC Lexington

2015 DEAN'S CIRCLE CHAMPION

STURGILL, TURNER, BARKER & MOLONEY, PLLC



# SCHOLARSHIP LAUNCHED TO HONOR FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN GRADUATE OF UK LAW

This year the law school celebrated the 60th anniversary of Ollen B. Hinnant's graduation from law school. Mr. Hinnant was the first African American to graduate from UK Law. In recognition of this milestone, a group of alumni established a scholarship in his name.

The scholarship was announced at an event held to celebrate the life and societal impact of Mr. Hinnant. He is known as a trailblazer who paved the way in the legal community for not only his generation but many to come. The Ollen B. Hinnant Scholarship is the "creation of a mechanism that should continue to further assist minorities and others who may be deprived of meaningful opportunity for a legal education because of lack of funds," Dean David A. Brennen said.

# **Alumni Impact**

## MISSION: UNDERSTANDING

### Cincinnati lawyer works to ensure equal rights, treatment for American Muslims

#### By: Martha Middleton

The following article has been reprinted with permission from the American Bar Association. The article originally appeared in the May 2015 issue of the ABA Journal.

Not yet a decade out of law school and already gaining a name as a passionate lawyer, volunteer and activist, Roula Allouch has had her feet firmly planted in two different worlds her whole life. A self-described "Kentucky girl" with five siblings, Allouch graduated from the University of Kentucky and its law school, where she continues to root for her beloved Wildcats. At the same time, each morning before leaving home for her job with a Cincinnati law firm, she puts on the hijab—or headscarf—that she has worn since college, a visible sign of her commitment to her Islamic faith.

While Allouch's civil litigation practice in Ohio and Kentucky is always busy, it is far from her only vocation. Serving as a representative of the Young Lawyers Division of the Kentucky Bar Association in the ABA House of Delegates, Allouch has become an increasingly familiar face in bar leadership. She chairs the Tellers Committee of the House. She is also a co-coordinator of the YLD's 2014-15 public service project, Project Street Youth, which explores the legal issues affecting homeless and transitional youths and provides a toolkit for young lawyers helping them. Recently she

has been appointed to the council of the ABA Rule of Law Initiative for the Middle East and North Africa. The initiative partners with nongovernmental organizations and other groups to help build democratic structures in countries throughout that region.

#### **BUSY BUT FULFILLED**

Looking closely at her diverse life as an American-born Muslim female lawyer, common themes of justice, equality, dignity and dialogue emerge in all of Allouch's pursuits, including one she calls "truly the most rewarding volunteer work I have ever participated in." Earlier this year she was named national board chair of the Washington, D.C.-based Council on American-Islamic Relations, one of the leading Muslim civil rights and advocacy organizations in the United States. CAIR is committed to empowering American Muslims, advocating for their rights and enhancing the understanding of Islam in this country.

That mission has become particularly critical—and difficult—in recent months due to brutal actions, in the name of Islam, of terrorist groups, most notably the one calling itself the Islamic State, which is also known as ISIS. Allouch believes that the group's actions, which are "not only un-Islamic but anti-Islamic," have increased the biases against and often the outright hatred of Muslims more than at any other time that she can remember since



the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. For its part, CAIR composed an open letter signed by more than 120 international Islamic scholars and Muslim leaders that refutes ISIS's ideology and offers a point-by-point analysis of any claimed religious justification for its actions.

Relations between Muslims and the wider community also have grown more tense since the February murders of three young Arab-American Muslims in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Craig Stephen Hicks, a neighbor alleged to have been involved in a long-running dispute with the three victims over parking, has been charged in their killings, which many say should be classified as hate crimes.

The killings jolted Allouch, who acknowledges widening tensions and an increasingly virulent anti-Muslim environment among what she terms "Islamophobic" groups and individuals in the United States. Particularly troubling to her was the realization that the victims—ages 19, 21 and 23—"were the accurate representation of American Muslims. It's like I knew them, I see my siblings in

them; we see ourselves in them," she says. The murders made her even more resolved to wear the hijab. "It's a representation of my personal faith," she says. "It's my right."

Allouch believes the legal community has a role to play in ensuring that crimes based on a victim's race, religion or other protected right are prevented, as well as prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law when they occur. On Feb. 13, CAIR joined with some 150 other organizations in signing a letter urging U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to open a federal hate crime investigation into the North Carolina murders.

Focusing on other projects that help clear up misconceptions and stereotypes concerning Muslims, CAIR provides programs in diversity training for law enforcement officials and civil rights and leadership initiatives for students. "And a chunk of our work is legal," she points out, with CAIR devoting resources to ensuring that accommodations are in place for employees' prayer time and helping Muslims who have been put on no-fly lists for no apparent reason.

Soon it also will submit an amicus brief on behalf of the plaintiff in a case recently accepted by the U.S. Supreme Court, which will decide whether retailer Abercrombie & Fitch was discriminatory when it refused to hire a Muslim woman wearing a hijab.

Incidents of potential discrimination involving Muslim women wearing headscarves have arisen around the country, she notes, citing some employees at state motor vehicle offices who have told women that they must remove their hijab because their face must be fully visible in identification pictures. In her own life, a bailiff once asked Allouch to remove her headscarf in the courtroom, but she says after she explained to him what it was and why she was wearing it, he apologized and she was allowed to keep it on.

#### STRONG IDENTITY

The only Muslim in her law school class, Allouch says she made the decision to start wearing a hijab because she likes to be identified as a Muslim woman who is practicing her faith on a day-to-day basis.

Does a Muslim woman who is also practicing law, volunteering and advocating every day contradict the tenets of that religion? Identifying herself as a feminist, Allouch rejects that notion, saying "there are so many rights that women have in this faith." She felt no obstacles in her way to becoming a lawyer from the moment the seed was planted during a college economics course (she graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of business administration in economics) and germinated when a career assessment test indicated law as the best match. Her decision to become a lawyer was solidified, though, after 9/11 and the backlash against Muslims that followed, something that made her see clearly that lawyers were needed "to advocate for the rights of our community members."

For the most part, Allouch believes she has "been very fortunate that in my career and in my practice I have not come across much discrimination," noting that most slights have been made by those who assumed she didn't belong in the courtroom.

But one time, in a much more harrowing episode, she got on an elevator at the local courthouse with a man who, when the door closed, started berating her for being Muslim. She says she remembers "the look of hate he had in his eyes as he said how violent and hateful my religion was, and he was spewing hate at me. After the fact I realized how scary it was," she says. "It reminded me that there are a lot of people who have a lot of hate."

Ten or 20 years from now, when she still will be a relatively young lawyer, Allouch hopes also to still be very involved in her practice, bar leadership and service to the community at large and the Muslim community. What she hopes for even more, though, is a change in the venomous anti-Islamic attitude she saw in that man and sees in this country every day.

With the challenges that accompany the daily practice of law, Allouch realizes that she "is very, very fortunate to be able to work and volunteer on a daily basis" with her law firm, the ABA, CAIR and the community. At times, the career she has forged can seem almost surreal to her, she says, noting that "it's certainly been a unique experience."

This article originally appeared in the May 2015 issue of the ABA Journal with this headline: "Mission: Understanding: Cincinnati lawyer works to ensure equal rights, treatment for American Muslims."



(L to R) Dean David Brennen, Gov. Steve Beshear (1968), and UK President Eli Capilouto attended a UK Law event hosted by the Governor at his mansion in Frankfort.



(L to R) Honorable Brian Edwards (1996), UK Board of Trustee Mark Bryant (1973), and UK Board of Trustee Angela Edwards (1994) attended a UK Law event hosted by Governor Beshear at his mansion in Frankfort.



Dean David Brennen and members of UK Law staff attended a Bowling Green alumni reception hosted by the Kerrick Bachert PSC law firm.

(L to R) John McNeill (1982), Pete Perlman (1962), and Dean David Brennen attended the Lafferty & Lawson Society event at Spy Coast Farm in October 2014.





Dean David Brennen, 3L student Arshia Saiyed, and members of UK Law staff attended a Nashville, TN alumni reception hosted by Julia Morris (1982).

### **HOMECOMING & ALUMNI RECEPTIONS**











Alumni in the classes of 1964, 1965, 1974, 1984, 1989, 1994, and 2004 gathered at CastlePost in October 2014 to celebrate their law school reunions.

# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

The College of Law is grateful to our donors for contributing nearly \$650,000 in support. These gifts are used to fund many of our programs and initiatives, including scholarships, professorships, student organizations, distinguished speakers, and many more. Thank you all for helping make UK Law such a special place.

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 Association Member
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Mr. Stephen M. Ruschell \*‡

## **Alumni Impact**

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#### \$500-\$999

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# **Closing Arguments**

## **BUSINESS BANKRUPTCY REFORM**

## Once Every 40 Years Might be Enough

#### By: Chris Frost

Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code provides a process designed to reorganize businesses suffering from financial distress. The idea behind the system is that even though a business is insolvent and therefore cannot pay its creditors, the value of the business assets might be higher if the business continues in operation and is reorganized and rehabilitated rather than liquidated. These higher values result in higher creditor recoveries, and successful Chaapter 11 reorganizations also preserve jobs and reduce the stress of business closings on the surrounding communities.

Chapter 11 reorganization is controversial. High profile bankruptcies such as the Chrysler and General Motors bankruptcies, which reorganized the flagging American auto industry, and the Johns-Manville and A.H. Robbins bankruptcies, which dealt with the aftermath of mass tort liabilities, provoke outrage from some who view bankruptcy as a bailout or a refuge from the effects of bad corporate behavior. Nevertheless, the bankruptcy system has worked in these instances to maximize the assets available to creditors (including those injured by the corporations' pre-bankruptcy activities) and to lessen the blow to the economy that a liquidation might entail.

That said, the current business bankruptcy system is less than perfect

and calls for reform are increasing. We have been here before. Whether from need or coincidence, our business bankruptcy system has undergone substantial revision every 40 years since the Bankruptcy Act of 1898. Two major revisions, the Chandler Act of 1938 and the Bankruptcy Code of 1978, were prompted by general dissatisfaction with the ability of the system to deliver on its promise to provide an efficient method of resolving financial distress through reorganization.

That 40-year schedule puts the due date for next round of revisions at 2018 and, continuing this cycle, practitioners, judges and law professors have begun the process of study, discussion, and sometimes heated debate about a new set of rules governing business bankruptcy. Leading the reform process, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the country's largest organization of bankruptcy lawyers, judges and professors, has recently completed a three-year study of the business bankruptcy process and has published an extensive report with hundreds of recommendations for the improvement of the system.

The core of the current Chapter 11 process is negotiation among creditors and shareholders that is directed at two questions. First, the parties must determine the future of the business and the appropriate use of the assets. The business might

simply be continued, assets might be reconfigured or sold, business lines added or dropped, or the entire business liquidated either as a package or piecemeal. Second, the parties have to decide on a division of new debt claims against, and equity interests in, the business, which claims and interests will comprise the new financial structure of the business. The theory underlying this approach is that the parties with money at stake in the outcome of the reorganization are likely to make better economic decisions about the future of the company than a bankruptcy judge, who has no economic stake in the outcome.

The ABI report does not advocate a change in the basic structure of Chapter 11, or its focus on negotiated solutions, but the report contains a number of recommendations designed to improve Chapter 11's effectiveness.

One important recommendation recognizes a trend in large corporate Chapter 11 cases. Rather than keeping the business assets intact and reorganizing the capital structure of the business, parties are increasingly opting to put the company as a whole up for sale to the highest bidder. A sale as opposed to a reorganization has the benefit of speed and may maximize the overall value available to creditors. Rather than fight over uncertain valuations, market sales fix that amount and the cash received

for the business can be quickly distributed to the creditors in the order of their non-bankruptcy priorities.

The problem with these sales has been that the Bankruptcy Code—which was drafted in 1978 and focused on traditional reorganizations—does not have specific provisions regulating the sale of the business as a going concern. In some cases, this has resulted in sales procedures that some believe skirt the protection that Chapter 11 provides to low priority classes of creditors. Sometimes sales happen too quickly, or at the behest of senior creditors who may not have the incentive to maximize the value of the assets. In response to these concerns the ABI report contains recommendations that impose protections for low priority creditors where the bankruptcy case is resolved through an asset sale.

On the other side of the spectrum, the ABI Report also responds to the cost and effectiveness of smaller business bankruptcies. Small and medium size businesses (generally those under \$10 million in assets or liabilities) form the backbone of our economy, but are particularly prone to financial failure. A number of observers believe that Chapter 11 is too slow, expensive, and cumbersome to provide an effective remedy for these businesses. The ABI report contains a number of recommendations designed to streamline the process for these smaller entities.

One of the most controversial of these recommendations is a proposal that would allow old shareholders to continue to hold a contingent ownership stake in the business notwithstanding the fact that the value of the business appears to be insufficient to pay creditors in full. Proponents of this change argue that the full enforcement of creditor priority over shareholders makes the reorganization of small and medium sized entities difficult if not impossible. This change is likely to provoke substantial debate as the reform process continues.

The ABI report also contains a vast number of other recommendationssome proposing important changes, and others simply designed to clarify ambiguous matters. As such the work is a good start on the long road to reform. For lawyers interested in bankruptcy, the entire 396-page report is useful reading, not only for the recommendations but also for the extensive background discussion. The full report is available at commission. abi.org/full-report. Others might find the report to be a useful resource when researching discrete problems.

Many others might simply want to watch from the sidelines as business bankruptcy reform begins to emerge in the financial press. Legislative change in bankruptcy is a slow process to be sure, but the ABI report might serve as the blueprint for business bankruptcy over the next 40 years.

Chris Frost is the Thomas P. Lewis Professor of Law and teaches Bankruptcy, Commercial Law, and Contracts at the College of Law. He served on the Avoiding Powers Advisory Committee to the ABI Commission on Bankruptcy Reform, and is a member of the ABI and a fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy.



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